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NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE COUNTY
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1959

66193





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JOHN B. TILLEY, M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H., *County Medical Officer.*



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Midwifery, Nursing and Child Care.
Mental Health.
Ambulance Services.
Family Care.
Area Health Sub-Committees (8).

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

County Medical Officer and Principal School Medical Officer	J. B. TILLEY, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Deputy County Medical Officer	W. MINNS, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer and Medical Supervisor of Midwives	JANET M. EDWARDS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Senior School Medical Officer	W. J. PIERCE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Area Executive Medical Officers—	
North 1 and 2 Areas	R. SHORT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Ed.), L.R.F.P.S.(G), D.P.H.
Central Area	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
East Area	A. DONALDSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
South Area... ..	MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
South-East Area	A. W. HAY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Wallsend Area	G. M. CUBIE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
West Area	J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Administrative Assistant	E. W. WOODCOCK.
Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer	ISOBEL J. McLARTY, M.B., Ch.B.
Assistant County Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare)	MARIAN PARKINSON, M.B., B.S. ANNA M. REID, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. CATHERINE B. SINCLAIR, M.B., Ch.B. BLANCHE SYKES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. FRANCES A. POTTER, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B. (part-time). (Commenced 27th April, 1959).
School Medical Officers	W. W. BURNETT, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H. J. DEEGAN, M.B., B.S. MARY W. DEWELL, M.B., B.S. EDNA T. EVERDELL, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. (Resigned 9th April, 1959). ENID L. HUGHES, M.B., B.S., M.Sc., D.C.H. R. A. MATTHEWS, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. BEATRICE M. NOBLE, M.B., B.S. (part-time). ENID M. YOUNG, M.B., B.S. C. R. B. BAMFORD, M.B., B.S. (Commenced 13th April, 1959). R. B. SMITH, M.B., Ch.B. (Commenced 1st June, 1959).
Chest Physicians	J. R. BEAL, M.D., D.P.H. (Deceased 2nd July, 1959). J. M. GILMORE, M.D., D.P.H. G. HURRELL, M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H. C. VERITY, M.D., D.P.H. F. L. WOLLASTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Staff of the Health Department—*continued.*

Principal School Dental Officer	...	A. E. ROBINSON, F.D.S.R.C.S.
Orthodontist	... ..	G. H. STEEL, F.D.S.R.C.S., D.Orth. (Resigned 28th February, 1959). G. W. PETTIGREW, L.D.S., D.D.O. (Commenced 1st December, 1959).
Dental Officers	... ..	C. D. ANDERSON, L.D.S. (Resigned 31st August, 1959). R. S. BODENHAM, B.D.S. AGNES E. M. BROWN, B.D.S. (Resigned 7th April, 1959). H. J. COOMBES, L.D.S. SHEILA M. CRUTE, B.D.S. E. T. CUNNELL, B.D.S. R. S. FERRELL, L.D.S. R. M. FOULDS, L.D.S. HELEN C. GENT, B.D.S. J. F. HORSEMAN, L.D.S. T. A. IRELAND, L.D.S. W. J. IRVINE, L.D.S. MARGARET I. LAMB, L.D.S. SHIRLEY E. LONG, L.D.S. T. M. MAHADERVAN, L.D.S. W. P. NEILSON, L.D.S. A. K. PATERSON, B.D.S. J. R. PORTEOUS, B.D.S. W. ROBSON, L.D.S. J. W. RUSSELL, L.D.S. S. J. SMITHSON, L.D.S. NORMA S. STEWART, B.D.S. E. G. STUART, B.D.S. R. W. WHITTINGHAM, B.D.S.
Principal Nursing Officer	... ..	ANN A. GRAHAM, O.B.E., S.R.N., H.V. Cert., F.R.S.H.
Deputy Principal Nursing Officer (Health Visiting)	... ..	MAY FOTHERGILL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. R.S.H.
Deputy Principal Nursing Officer (Midwifery and Nursing)	...	MARY GILLILAND, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. R.S.H.
Assistant Principal Nursing Officer (Health Visiting)	... ..	MARY ATKINSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. R.S.H.
Assistant Principal Nursing Officer (Midwifery and Nursing)	...	YVETTE ESME BUCKOKE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. R.S.H.
Almoner	... ..	DOROTHY L. DUNN.
Family Caseworker	... ..	SYLVIA M. NEWNHAM.

Staff of the Health Department—*continued*.

County Health Inspector	...	...	D. LISTER, Cert. S.I.B., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.
Ambulance Officer	...	...	G. D. DICKINSON. (Resigned 17th April, 1959). R. D. CHARLES. (Commenced 20th April, 1959).
Senior Mental Welfare Officer	...	L. ARMSTRONG.	
Mental Welfare Officers	...	G. T. HARRISON. T. A. HENDERSON. W. R. PRINGLE. J. J. D. RICHARDSON. R. TEBBLE. C. I. VASS.	
Supervisors of Training Centres—			
Ashington	...	...	NANCY E. ANDERSON.
Bedlington	...	...	MARGARET FISHER.
Berwick (part-time)	...	...	ALFREDA M. SMALL.
Prudhoe (part-time)			
(Supervisor and Home Teacher)			DOROTHY HEADS.
Wallsend	...	...	G. SANDERSON.
Home Teacher	...	...	G. CUMMINGS.
Supervisor of Welfare of the Handi-			
capped	...	...	EILEEN METCALFE.
Home Help Organisers	...	...	MARY J. W. BEAL. DOREEN GROSE. MARGARET J. TRELOAR.
Occupational Therapists	SHIRLEY P. HAIGH, M.A.O.T. ISABELLA H. HAVERY (part-time). ENID URWIN, M.A.O.T. MARJORIE E. ARMSTRONG, S.A.O.T. (part-time). (Commenced 28th September, 1959).

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman,

This report on the health of Northumberland in 1959 continues to show the succession of improvements which have been noted with almost unfailing regularity over the past few years and shows that new records were established in several fields. The increase in infantile mortality in 1958 was reversed and there was a fall in both the still birth and neo-natal mortality rates. This improvement in the most resistant part of infant mortality is most welcome and must reflect the increasing ante-natal care which mothers receive. It is of interest to note that, despite the changes in this field which have occurred since the introduction of the National Health Service, the number of mothers attending the Council's ante-natal clinics has increased by 5% and the attendances have increased by 15% in the last 10 years: clearly, this reflects the close association that exists between the family doctors and the clinics.

Twenty years ago tuberculosis was fourth among the causes of death in the county: this year for the first time it is omitted from the list of principal causes of mortality which appears annually in this report. The decrease from 274 deaths in 1939 and 186 deaths in 1949 to the new low level of 24 this year is one of the remarkable triumphs of modern medicine. The fall in the incidence of the disease as indicated by notification was most welcome and justifies the work of prevention including B.C.G. vaccination which is carried on with undiminished vigour. The B.C.G. vaccination scheme was extended during the year to those over 14 attending educational establishments. Over 20,000 individuals have been vaccinated since the scheme was first introduced.

The Council's work within the National Health Service continues to expand. Last year in the review of ten years of that service which was contained in this report it was shown that the numbers of children brought to the child welfare clinics had steadily increased each year over the period up to 25,800 which was a record. In 1959 this record was exceeded and 26,800 children visited the clinics on a total of 152,000 occasions. This continued and increasing voluntary attendance of mothers and babies at the clinics shows a continuing need and makes it clear that the pattern of this service is likely to change only slowly, despite the increasing tendency for family doctors to conduct such clinics in their own premises. One part of the work of the clinics which has not expanded is that dealing with national dried milk and vitamin products. The distribution of national dried milk has fallen by 49% since 1955 and the distribution of cod liver oil by the same amount. The sale of proprietary dried milk has gone

up during the same period and it is thought that the sales of liquid milk at reduced rates have also increased. This is a national problem and the position needs careful consideration in the future.

The account of the training of the health visiting staff in the early detection of deafness is interesting. Much can be done to help young children to use residual hearing and to improve the educational potential of the deaf child by early discovery of its handicap.

The appointment during the year of a male nurse to the district nursing service proved an immediate success and showed that despite the difficulties in a county area some further appointments are desirable.

There was an appreciable increase during the year in the number of children protected against diphtheria. Much of this increase was due to the popularity of triple antigen which protects against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. Mothers generally are anxious to have their children protected against whooping cough and are less concerned about diphtheria than formerly. Almost 40,000 children have been protected against whooping cough in the past ten years and more than 7,000 were immunised in 1959. It is interesting to note that fewer cases of whooping cough occurred in 1959 than ever before, though it would not be possible at this stage to demonstrate convincingly a direct connection between these two facts. The success of the poliomyelitis vaccination is generally known, and it will suffice here to draw attention to the vast amount of work carried out by the family doctors and by my department in giving protection to 135,000 people. No case of poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

The number of persons receiving home help has more than doubled since 1949 and the increase was continued this year. This unspectacular service is indeed one of the most valuable facets of the National Health Service: while it may be possible to work out its financial advantage to the hospital and welfare authorities, it is of truly incalculable benefit to thousands of old people.

One of the most welcome advances in the county within the field of the National Health Service was the opening of the new Occupation Centre at Ashington. I have previously referred to the expansion that has taken place in the mental health service and it is clear that expansion in new fields within this service lie ahead with the advent of the Mental Health Act. Though this report does not contain any account of extensions attributable to the new Act, much preliminary work was undertaken.

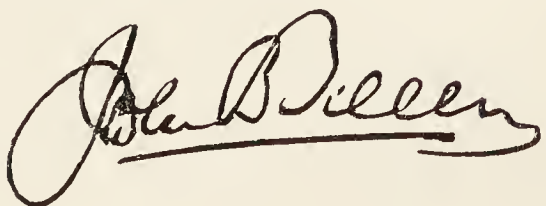
We have become accustomed to the improvements in the services provided in the county and their benefits to the health of the community. These improvements extend beyond the field of personal health services as is witnessed by the establishment of the Coquet Water Board and the extension of the responsibility of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company to the west of the county. We should perhaps specially welcome the start that has been made with grants for installing modern amenities in houses. In these days of the affluent society, it is salutary to remember that there are still some 35,000 houses in Northumberland without a bath and about 9,000 houses without a separate water closet. Many difficulties exist in rural areas, but it is impossible to feel satisfied while such conditions exist. About 40,000 houses have been built since the war, but many more are needed. It is most disappointing to note that the provision of new council houses reached its lowest level for about 25 years even though more private houses were built than in any year since 1945.

It is a pleasure to report that the Health Department received visitors from twelve different countries during the year. That they find the work of the department worth studying is a matter of some pride for us: we for our part benefit greatly from the stimulus of their visits, their encouragement and their criticism.

You, Sir, as Chairman of the Health Committee, will know that the staff of the Health Department has worked loyally and well throughout the year, and I am most grateful to each of them individually. I would specially mention the Area Medical Officers who carry out their work so smoothly and with such skill. We are all indebted to you, Sir, and the members both of the Health Committee and the Area Sub-Committees for the constant support and encouragement we have received.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,



County Medical Officer of Health.

COUNTY HALL,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, 1.
Telephone : Newcastle 2-8927.



NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.

Report of the County Medical Officer of Health for the year 1959.

	Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Total.
Area (acres) ...	79,573	1,196,632	1,276,205
Population ...	369,700	105,300	475,000
Rateable Value ...	£3,878,665	£1,152,746	£5,031,411

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

There were 8,184 babies born in Northumberland during 1959. This represented an increase in the crude birth rate to 17·23 for every 1,000 of the population. When this figure was adjusted by the factor which allows for comparison with other areas the rate was 16·89: the birth rate for England and Wales was 16·5 per 1,000. The birth rate was thus the highest for ten years and indeed higher than it was 30 years ago. The relative prosperity of the county is, of course, greater today than it was in 1929 and earlier marriage is the rule. Both of these factors no doubt play a part in the change in the proportion of illegitimate births. In 1959, of the live births in the county 2·9% were illegitimate; this is only half the proportion of illegitimate births which occurred thirty years ago.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The fall in the infant mortality rate which was checked in 1958 for the first time in nine years was continued in 1959, when the rate fell to 23·58 per 1,000 births. In two county districts

there was no infant death. Of the 193 deaths under the age of one year, 143 or 74% occurred in the first four weeks of life. It is in this period that improvement has been slowest and this neo-natal mortality is closely associated with the still birth rate. Both the neo-natal death rate and the still birth rate were reduced in 1959, and the combined rate fell to 38.19 which was the lowest figure ever recorded in the county. Ten years earlier the figure was 44.29 and the rate of decline has been very slow until the last twelve months. It is, of course, possible for this mortality to be still further reduced and it is to be hoped that this new appreciable fall may mark the beginning of a more rapid trend in that direction.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths recorded during the year was 5,495, which was 172 less than the year before, and the crude general death rate was reduced to 11.56 per 1,000 population. A lower rate than this has been recorded twice in the last twenty years.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF MORTALITY.

The decline in mortality from nephritis and from tuberculosis continued, and deaths from these two conditions together accounted for less than 1% of the total. For the first time, therefore, they have not been included in the table which it is customary to print in this part of the report.

Despite the fact that there was a decrease in deaths from some forms of heart disease, diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for more than half of the total mortality for the year, which is in keeping with the record of recent years. Two-thirds of the total deaths occurred after the age of 65 and 40% after the age of 75 years. While the degenerative diseases must be expected to loom large in the mortality figures in these circumstances, there has been no appreciable change in the mortality from bronchitis and pneumonia in the last ten years, and the number of deaths from accident seems to be slowly rising: many of these deaths are also among the elderly.

The death rate from cancer was reduced in 1959 to the level recorded three years earlier. Although the rate has risen in the last ten years the rise is a very slow one and is by no means uniform. It may be noted that the deaths from cancer of the stomach were the lowest in ten years and that deaths from cancer of the uterus were also less than they were ten years ago. On the other hand, cancer of the lung has doubled in that time and the mortality from breast cancer shows no sign of decreasing.

The following table shows the main causes of death. The table showing all causes is found on page 81.

	1959.		1958.	
	Number of Deaths.	Per-centage of Total Deaths.	Number of Deaths.	Per-centage of Total Deaths.
Heart Disease :—				
Coronary Disease, Angina...	972		959	
Hypertension with Heart Disease	105		114	
Other... ..	822		971	
	— 1,899	34·56	— 2,044	36·07
Malignant Neoplasm :—				
Stomach	146		162	
Lung, Bronchus	184		192	
Breast	74		82	
Uterus	43		46	
Other... ..	457		472	
	— 904	16·45	— 954	16·84
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	924	16·82	947	16·71
Bronchitis	253	4·60	253	4·47
Pneumonia	215	3·91	177	3·13
Motor Vehicle and other accidents	215	3·91	194	3·42
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	206	3·75	219	3·86
	4,616	84·00	4,788	84·48

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Details of notifiable fevers are given in Table 6. This was a measles year again and over 8,000 cases, varying from 1,234 in Wallsend to 2 in Norham and Islandshires, occurred in the spring and early summer.

Whooping cough showed another big drop from 592 to 285, the lowest number of cases recorded since 1939, when the disease first became notifiable. One case of diphtheria, in an adult, occurred in Amble during October. There have been no deaths from this disease in Northumberland since 1950. From 1940 to 1949 there was a total of 202 deaths.

FOOD POISONING.

There were 22 cases, with small episodes in Blyth, Seaton Valley and Alnwick notified during the year.

An interesting outbreak occurred in March when five members of a family ate sandwiches made from a tin of salmon. Within

three hours of the tin being opened the first member of the family became ill and the others followed. Coagulase positive staphylococci were isolated from the remains of the salmon and the tin, but another full tin from the same batch gave negative bacteriological findings. No further complaints were received from other families buying this brand of salmon and the sick family quickly recovered. It was not possible to make any further progress in finding the cause of this outbreak and the firm supplying the salmon received no other complaints.

POLIOMYELITIS.

For the first time for many years it was very pleasing to be able to report that no case of poliomyelitis occurred. This followed an intensive vaccination campaign which commenced in 1956, a full description of which will be found on page 37.

ROAD SAFETY.

The Chief Constable has kindly provided me with a copy of his Annual Report on Road Accidents and I quote his figures, as in previous years.

The number of accidents increased once more to a total of 4,414 compared with 4,363 in 1958 and 3,675 in 1955. This represents a rise of 20% in five years. Both the number of injured and killed increased alarmingly. 70 persons were killed on the roads—29 pedestrians, 10 motor cyclists (6 without crash helmets), 9 pedal cyclists, 8 drivers and 14 pedestrians. Six of the pedestrians and 2 of the pedal cyclists were children under 15. The number of injured persons increased from 2,245 to 2,507.

The report gives full details hour by hour, day by day and month by month in the different police districts and it is clear that the hours of 3 to 6 p.m. and 10 to 11 p.m. are dangerous, that the week-ends are worse than weekdays, and that May, July and August have the highest accident rates.

Whereas in 1956 there were 196 accidents on that part of the A1 between the county boundary and Fisher Lane, Seaton Burn, this five miles of road has now produced 255 accidents, 3 people being killed. Similarly the Coast Road, A1058, where it runs through Wallsend, was the scene of 121 accidents as a result of which 68 people were killed or injured. The third most dangerous road was that part of the A69, the West Road, from the county boundary to Heddon-on-the-Wall where there were 85 accidents causing 5 deaths and 66 injured.

Education by Government sponsored press and radio publicity, together with locally inspired exhibitions, safety tests for bicycles, and talks in schools and child welfare centres become even more important each year as the number of cars on the road increases.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACTS.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Vital Statistics.

Live births—							
Number ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,184
Rate per 1000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	17·23
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births							2·99
Still births—							
Number ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	174
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	20·82
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,358
Infant deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
Infant mortality rates—							
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	23·58
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	23·43
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	28·57
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	17·47
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1000 live births...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14·30
Peri-natal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	34·82
Maternal mortality—							
Number ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Rate per 1000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	0·72

Notification and Registration of Births.

There was a further increase in the number of births last year being 8,358 compared with 8,218 in 1958. The live birth rate was 17·23 per 1,000 population, the highest figure for ten years. After adjustment the figure was reduced to 16·89 compared with 16·5 for England and Wales. Approximately 70% of the births occurred in hospital.

Still Births.

There were 174 still births registered giving a rate of 20·82 per 1,000 registered births. This was again a decrease, being the second lowest for the last ten years and little above that for the whole country.

Premature Births.

The total number of babies born prematurely was 656, the same figure as in 1958. 571 of these were born alive and 85 stillborn. The proportion of premature births which took place in hospital was 92% compared with 80% last year. The incidence of prematurity was 7% of the total births, a slightly lower figure than for 1958. Of the 571 babies born alive 81 died before the end of the first month, 56% of the total of 143 neo-natal deaths. This compares favourably with 72% in 1958 and 60% in 1957. Of the 462 premature babies born alive in hospitals and nursing homes 84% survived the neo-natal period while of the 109 born alive at home 89% survived. Compared with last year this shows a decided improvement in the risks of premature babies born at home.

Neo-natal Mortality.

143 babies died before reaching the age of 4 weeks, a mortality rate of 17·47 per 1,000 live births. Prematurity was the cause of death in 35 cases and other conditions were as follows:—

Malformation and abnormalities	...	...	...	20
Atelectasis	...	...	...	18
Respiratory disease	...	...	...	17
Hyaline membrane disease	...	...	...	13
Cerebral conditions	...	...	...	10
Asphyxia neonatorum	...	...	...	7
Neo-natal infection	...	...	...	6
Anoxia	...	...	...	6
Haemolytic disease of the newborn	...	...	...	3
Birth injuries	...	...	...	2
Kernicterus	...	...	...	2
Adrenal insufficiency	...	...	...	1
Fibro cystic disease	...	...	...	1
Postmaturity	...	...	...	1
Cyanosis (no cause found at post mortem examination)				1

Infant Deaths.

The infant death rate decreased once more from 24·03 to 23·58 per 1,000 live births, while the rate for England and Wales was 22·0. The following table gives details of the 193 babies who died in the first year of life. It will be seen that apart from “Other defined and ill-defined diseases”, which includes prematurity, the majority of deaths were due to congenital malformations and respiratory infections. The deaths from pneumonia alone increased to 29 compared with 16 in 1958.

	Boroughs and Urban Districts.			Rural Districts.			Total.
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	
Tuberculosis—Other forms	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Whooping cough	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal infections	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Influenza	—	1	1	—	1	1	2
Pneumonia	19	10	29	—	—	—	29
Bronchitis	1	3	4	—	—	—	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	4	1	5	—	—	—	5
Congenital malformations	12	12	24	3	4	7	31
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	58	33	91	12	11	23	114
All other accidents	2	1	3	1	—	1	4
Homicide and operations of war	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	97	63	160	16	17	33	193

The table on page 79 gives details of infant and neo-natal deaths in all the county districts. There were no infant deaths during the year in Prudhoe or Glendale.

Illegitimate Births.

There were 254 illegitimate births, including 9 stillborn, out of a total of 8,358 live and still births, equal to 2·9% of all births, compared with 2·79% last year. Mortality rates in legitimate and illegitimate births over the past five years were as follows:—

YEAR.	STILLBIRTH RATE.		INFANT MORTALITY RATE.		NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE.	
	Legitimate Births.	Illegitimate Births.	Legitimate Births.	Illegitimate Births.	Legitimate Births.	Illegitimate Births.
1955	23·19	24·39	25·83	54·16	18·01	50·00
1956	20·65	24·09	25·30	41·15	19·05	37·03
1957	25·32	25·10	23·31	30·04	16·65	25·75
1958	23·15	8·85	23·44	44·64	17·93	31·25
1959	20·36	35·43	23·43	28·57	17·13	28·57

Maternal Mortality.

There were 6 maternal deaths during the year compared with 2 last year and 6 in 1957 giving a mortality rate of 0·72 per 1,000 total births.

Child Welfare Centres.

The number of children attending centres and the total number of attendances was again greater than ever before and the figures in the following table show a 17% increase in attendances over the last five years.

Year.	No. of Centres.	No. of half-day sessions held.	Total No. of children attending.	Total attendances.
1955	97	5,613	23,335	129,251
1956	96	5,712	23,958	133,614
1957	96	5,715	24,900	141,484
1958	95	5,741	25,843	144,382
1959	94	5,873	26,798	151,933

Only one small centre, Monkseaton St. Mary's, was closed during the year.

The attendance of toddlers at birthday sessions was well maintained as will be seen from the following table:—

Year of Attendance.	Number of children who attended during years 1958—59 who were born in:				
	1959.	1958.	1957.	1954-57.	1953-56.
1958	—	6,584	6,404	—	12,855
1959	6,898	6,766	—	13,134	—

As well as routine examinations, treatment of any defects discovered at birthday sessions is a modern development and the following table shows the attendances at orthopaedic and ophthalmic clinics for the past five years. 90 children also received speech therapy.

	YEAR.				
	1959.	1958.	1957.	1956.	1955.
OPHTHALMIC—					
Number of pre-school children examined	1,049	1,087	961	1,053	934
Number of spectacles prescribed ...	274	279	257	243	283
ORTHOPAEDIC—					
Number of new cases who attended	632	537	540	658	551
Number of old cases who attended	1,212	1,293	1,612	815	768

Distribution of Welfare Foods.

The distribution of National dried milk and vitamin tablets, and the sale of special nutritional supplements and other types of dried milk, continued at all the child welfare and special voluntary centres. The postal service operated by the clerk at the central food store was widely used by people living in rural districts. The figures in the following table show a further small decline in National dried milk purchased, due to the increasing popularity of other milks stocked. The amount of orange juice and vitamin tablets sold increased compared with 1958.

Year	National Dried Milk.	Cod Liver Oil.	Vitamin A. & D. Tablets.	Orange Juice.
	Tins.	Bottles.	Packets.	Bottles.
1957	221,378	49,584	22,600	396,778
1958	167,995	32,527	22,019	264,317
1959	152,949	32,279	24,008	279,659

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The table shows that a further 200 expectant mothers attended the Council's clinics for ante-natal advice and made a total of 26,702 visits. Much of the success of these clinics is due to the fact that general practitioners are in attendance at 81% of the clinics.

Year.	No. of Expectant Mothers attending.	Total No. of Attendances.
1955	5,699	21,311
1956	5,545	20,635
1957	6,075	22,747
1958	6,209	25,297
1959	6,408	26,702

Routine haemoglobin estimations, blood group, Rhesus tests and Wassermann reactions continued to take up a lot of the staff's time, but the greatest amount of progress was made in the relaxation exercise classes which were held at 10 clinics. Physiotherapists attended these, and tuition was also given to midwives and district nurses attending the clinics. Attendances at the relaxation classes were 8,443 compared with 6,849 in 1958. The table gives details of the work.

Clinic.	Attendances.		No. of half-day sessions.
	1st Visits.	Re-visits.	
Amble	Closed at	the end of 19	58
Ashington	50	340	51
Bedlington Station	63	392	49
Blyth	158	1,246	96
Gosforth	212	1,740	100
Morpeth	44	496	50
Ponteland	80	282	47
Seaton Delaval	38	206	49
Throckley	52	339	51
Whitley Bay	161	1,287	78
Wallsend	204	1,053	74

Post-Natal Examinations.

The following table gives details of the number of mothers attending and the total number of attendances for post-natal examinations. These examinations are done at ante-natal clinics and not at separate post-natal clinics.

Year.	No. of mothers attending.	Total No. of attendances.
1955	1,723	1,973
1956	1,674	1,884
1957	1,868	2,131
1958	1,901	2,189
1959	1,900	2,222

Family Planning.

Voluntary committees, affiliated to the Family Planning Association, which hold clinics in Ashington, Berwick, Blyth and Newcastle upon Tyne, received contributions from the Council. At Hexham child welfare centre the clinic directly run by the Council continued satisfactorily.

Immunisation of Pre-School Children.

The use of triple antigen conferring protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus became popular in most parts of the county and the number of children immunised more than doubled, compared with last year. More pre-school children than ever before were immunised in 1959.

Year.	Triple Antigen.	Diphtheria and Pertussis (combined).	Diphtheria only.	Pertussis only.
1955	—	3,314	2,310	844
1956	—	5,222	837	255
1957	—	5,220	618	159
1958	2,521	3,234	248	95
1959	5,037	1,914	342	19

Bowmer Bank Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Hostel.

Bowmer Bank ante-natal and post-natal hostel continued to provide shelter for expectant mothers, prior to their admission to hospital and afterwards for the post-natal period, while the future of the illegitimate baby was being decided. It was also possible to take a number of married women with difficult home conditions. The following statistics relate to the number of admissions and discharges from the hostel:—

Admissions ...	43 Ante-natal.
	3 Mothers and 3 babies.
	—
	46
	==
Discharges ...	23 Mothers took babies home.
	6 Babies to foster care.
	3 Mothers to employment.
	12 Adoptions.
	6 Ante-natal left before delivery.

Day Nurseries.

The day nurseries at Alnwick and Wallsend remained in operation during the year. There were 2,670 attendances at Alnwick

compared with 6,141 in 1958. The day nursery at Wallsend admitted more children than in 1958 and as a result there was a total of 3,767 attendances.

Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948.

Under the provision of the above Act, registration may be of premises in which case the institution is referred to as a day nursery. Where, however, children are received for care into the home of the person undergoing registration, that person is registered as a daily minder.

				Year.	
				1959	1958
Nurseries:—					
Registered at end of year	...	...	...	6	6
Children provided for	...	...	...	89	89
Daily Minders:—					
Registered at end of year	...	...	...	14	11
Children provided for	...	...	...	145	126

DENTAL SERVICE.

(Mr. A. E. Robinson, F.D.S.R.C.S.).

As in previous years the dental treatment provided for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children was again undertaken by the School Dental Officers.

General Observations.

Over a period of the last five years, with slight fluctuations, it is becoming apparent that a gradual falling off in the number of patients attending for dental treatment is taking place.

There are probably two main reasons for this. In the first place, all expectant and nursing mothers attending the clinics are not automatically referred to the dental officer for a routine dental examination by the doctors attending. If this were done, all those patients who had their own dentist could be advised to make arrangements to have any necessary treatment carried out. Those who had no family dentist would be given an appointment, if they wished to attend for treatment. Similarly, if all pre-school children who attend the birthday clinics were also asked to visit the dentist, fewer cases would be missed and a number of children who are referred at a later date for extractions might very probably have had their teeth saved.

The second reason is the fact that dentists working in the National Health Service now have more time to devote to mothers and young children and once they have become patients of a particular dentist they normally will not wish to leave him, and again of course mothers are only eligible for dental treatment through the M.C.W. Service during pregnancy and until the infant has attained the age of twelve months.

With regard to the dental treatment carried out, whilst there were only 5,343 attendances made by expectant and nursing mothers compared with 5,846 in 1958 for treatment, there was an increase in both the number of fillings and the number of extractions done. Fillings showed an increase from 1,633 to 1,808 and extractions from 4,779 to 4,833.

There was, however, a falling off in the number of dentures provided during the year, viz.: 909 compared with 1,040 in 1958.

With regard to the dental treatment provided for pre-school children, whilst there was also a drop in the number of attendances from 2,033 to 1,910, the number of fillings done increased from 540 in 1958 to 859 in the year under review. Extractions showed a decrease from 2,908 to 2,148.

There were also two complete and two partial dentures fitted for children under five years of age.

The overall picture of dental treatment provided for the M. & C. W. Service would appear to show a slight fall in the number of patients attending for treatment but the volume of dental treatment provided shows an increase.

It is hoped that by arranging for the routine dental inspection of all mothers and young children attending the clinics, the gradual fall in the number of attendances noted over this last few years will be checked.

At the end of the year the following clinics were in operation:—

<i>Area.</i>			<i>Dental Officer.</i>
1.	Alnwick I	...	Miss S. M. Crute, B.D.S.
2.	Alnwick II	...	Mr. R. W. Whittingham, B.D.S.
3.	Amble	...	Mr. J. W. Russell, L.D.S.
4.	Ashington I	...	Mr. W. J. Irvine, L.D.S.
5.	Ashington II	...	Mr. R. S. Ferrell, L.D.S.
6.	Bedlington Station	...	Mr. A. K. Paterson, B.D.S.
7.	Berwick	...	Mr. W. P. Neilson, L.D.S.
8.	Blyth	...	Mr. H. J. Coombes, L.D.S.
9.	Cramlington	...	Mr. T. M. Mahadervan, L.D.S.
10.	Dudley	...	Mr. W. Robson, L.D.S.
11.	Forest Hall	...	(Vacant).
12.	Gosforth	...	Miss M. I. Lamb, L.D.S.
13.	Guide Post	...	Mr. R. M. Foulds, L.D.S.
14.	Haltwhistle	...	Mr. R. S. Bodenham, B.D.S.
	Hexham Urban	}	
15.	Hexham Rural...		Mr. T. A. Ireland, L.D.S.
16.	Howdon	...	Mr. E. G. Stuart, B.D.S.
17.	Morpeth	...	Mr. S. J. Smithson, L.D.S.
18.	Prudhoe	...	Miss S. E. Long, L.D.S.
19.	Seaton Delaval	...	Mr. A. E. Robinson, F.D.S.R.C.S.
20.	Shiremoor	...	Mr. J. R. Porteous, B.D.S.
21.	Throckley	...	Miss H. C. Gent, B.D.S.
22.	Wallsend	...	Mr. J. F. Horseman, L.D.S.
23.	Whitley Bay	...	Mr. E. T. Cunnell, B.D.S.

In conclusion I should like to thank the doctors and health visitors for their valuable help and co-operation in all of the clinics throughout the county.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICE.

Teamwork has been encouraged by area meetings of health visitors, midwives and district nurses with members of the administrative staff attending and informal meetings of staff took place in the centres.

Health education of the expectant mother is the joint responsibility of midwives and health visitors and was greatly accelerated during the year. Courses of instruction, usually consisting of six talks and discussions, were given in 16 of the large centres. These classes were held apart from the ante-natal sessions, so that the programme could be followed without interruption. The general practitioners in the county are becoming increasingly convinced of the value of this education and several family doctors who undertake ante-natal care in their own surgeries are referring their patients to these classes. In other areas, short talks and individual instruction was given, during the clinic sessions. The film "My First Baby" was shown to groups of fathers and mothers in many areas of the county. There is need for an extension of education of expectant mothers in rural areas where clinic facilities are not readily available.

Mothers' clubs give the best opportunity for education of young mothers. At club meetings they were able to enjoy talks by specialist speakers and discuss together problems and ideas relating to child care without the distraction of the children. Educational films, followed by discussion, were a popular feature of the clubs. The social activities of the club were also of benefit to members, particularly those in newly developing areas where other social contacts had not been established.

The small committee of three health visitors, two midwives and one district nurse, formed as a health education committee, undertook some investigation into the efficiency of anti-flam materials at present on the market. The result of this investigation will be available for the staff later.

Health visitors, district nurses and midwives have taken part in the practical training of student nurses from Hexham General Hospital and members of the administrative staff have given lectures on the social aspects of disease.

An administrative student from the Union of South Africa came to the county during her course at the Royal College of Nursing, to gain experience in county administration.

Home Nursing and Midwifery.

The staffing position remained satisfactory throughout the year. There were seven resignations and three retirements and seven permanent appointments were made.

The development of the home nursing and midwifery service throughout the county is constantly under review and during the

year changes were made to ensure both an adequate service to the community and a more equable distribution of work amongst the nursing staff.

MIDWIFERY.

The following notifications of intention to practice were received:—

Total.	County Council.	Hospitals.	Private Practice (including Nursing Homes).
192	106	77	9

In addition, there were 13 notifications to practice as maternity nurses.

Over the greater part of the county the staffing position has been satisfactory and the majority of midwives have carried out a reasonable case load.

The slight increase in domiciliary midwifery was maintained and the number of hospital maternity cases also showed a further increase. There has been a significant rise in the number of mothers booked into hospital for delivery only and discharged within 48 hours. If the plans for admission to hospital for delivery only are to work satisfactorily, a close liaison between hospital and health department will be needed to ensure that the domiciliary midwife is able to advise on suitable preparations for the mother's immediate return home, including satisfactory domestic assistance.

Doctors were booked for maternity medical services in the majority of domiciliary cases and were present at a small proportion of deliveries.

Inhalational analgesia, trilene or gas and air, was given to 80% of mothers and pethidine administered in 1,170 cases during labour. The drug ergo-rondase was introduced for county midwives to use in cases of post partum haemorrhage. This was in addition to ergometrine which has been carried by the midwives for several years.

ANTE-NATAL CARE.

Sustained efforts have been made to ensure adequate ante-natal care and supervision for all expectant mothers. More visits were paid to hospital booked cases. An arrangement has been made with one maternity hospital whereby all bookings are referred to the Health Department, thus ensuring continuity of ante-natal care. In this way the expectant mother also becomes acquainted with the midwife who will attend her on her return from hospital after delivery.

RELIEF OFF-DUTY FOR MIDWIVES.

Possibly a primary factor to be considered in reducing the arduous work of the midwife and the number of night calls made upon her is the reduction of her case load to reasonable proportions.

Every effort is being made to do this in the county areas where a considerable amount of midwifery is being undertaken.

Present arrangements for relief off-duty are as follows:—

The staff are arranged in working groups which vary in size depending upon accessibility, amount of work undertaken and transport available. Regular off duty and holidays are arranged by the groups in consultation with each other and relief work is shared among the group. No rule is laid down with regard to daily off duty but staff are given every encouragement to co-operate with each other in this respect. In certain areas part-time nurses and midwives are employed to act as relief to a group and where a vacancy stands or long term sickness arises every effort is made to obtain temporary relief staff.

The possibilities of a night rota system have not yet been explored. There would be more difficulties to overcome in a county area than in county boroughs in introducing such a scheme.

In county areas the small number of full-time midwives is spread over a very large area, the majority of staff being district nurse midwives dealing with less than 25 deliveries per year.

The basis of the system is a centre or base to which all calls are referred during certain hours at night and it is difficult to envisage at the present time how this could be arranged.

PART II TRAINING.

Eight pupils were received from Dilston Hall Maternity Hospital for training. Three qualified and five were still in training at the end of the year. All the pupils participated in ante-natal education and had the opportunity of observing relaxation classes and attending a mothers' club. Each spent some time with a health visitor in order to gain a wider view of work in the public health field.

HOME NURSING.

There has been no significant change in the number or type of home visits paid during the year. A large proportion of the home nurses work continued to be with the elderly and approximately 39% of all visits paid were to patients of 65 years and over. In addition to these nursing visits, many visits of a social and advisory nature were paid to elderly people. It is becoming increasingly apparent that there is a need for such visiting, particularly in the rural areas where there are few organised amenities and the

elderly, particularly those who live alone, become cut off from outside contacts. This field of work provides a further opportunity for co-operation between district nurses and health visitors.

Since the formation of the Geriatric Liaison Committee in the South-East Northumberland Hospital Management Committee area, a greater measure of co-ordination has been achieved between the local authority, hospital and general practitioner services. Patients from geriatric units are now followed up by the district nurses immediately after their discharge. Continuity of nursing care or supervision is thus ensured and is of great benefit to the patients. The shortage of beds for geriatric patients still constitutes a problem in certain areas and many such patients are being cared for at home under difficult social conditions.

The value of rehabilitation after illness, both from the individual and the community point of view, is becoming increasingly apparent and district nurses are adapting themselves to meet this newer aspect of their work. The work involved with early ambulation and the restoring of function is more time taking in the initial stages, but the need for prolonged bed care is obviated and the overall period of time during which the patient requires nursing care is reduced. For rehabilitation to be effective, the co-operation of both the sick and their relatives is essential. Education is therefore an integral part of rehabilitation. A one-day course on Health Education for Rehabilitation was given by the Central Council for Health Education for district nurses and this did much to stimulate their interest in the teaching aspect of their work. The value of the many new aids for rehabilitation is realised and it is hoped to expand the facilities for providing these.

Early in the year a male nurse was appointed to undertake home nursing duties in the Blyth area. This appointment, the first of its kind in Northumberland, has proved to be a great success and has demonstrated the value of the particular contribution which a male nurse can make to the service.

EDUCATION.

Eighteen midwives attended approved refresher courses arranged by the Royal College of Midwives and three attended a similar course arranged by the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. Two district nurses attended a refresher course arranged by the Royal College of Nursing for State Enrolled Assistant Nurses.

One member of the administrative staff attended a course on "A Dynamic Approach to Health Education" organised by the Central Council for Health Education.

Two staff conferences were held in County Hall when subjects of interest were presented and educational films shown.

NURSES HOMES.

The tenancy of the district nurses home in Berwick-upon-Tweed was given up early in the year and there are now only two remaining residential homes in the county, both of which provide accommodation for pupil midwives and several district midwives.

Health Visiting Service.

The general shortage of health visitors in the country has been a matter of concern for some years and it is gratifying to report that in Northumberland there has been a considerable improvement in recruitment of health visitors to our service. New appointments have outnumbered losses due to retirements and resignations. The establishment of health visitors remained at 95—three health visitors retired and five resigned—three to take up appointments abroad and two for domestic reasons. Twelve full-time and two part-time appointments were made, including six health visitors newly qualified under the Council's Grant Aided Scheme for training. The recruitment of students was satisfactory and five students commenced training under the Council's scheme—four in Newcastle and one in London.

The improvement in the staffing position is reflected in a general increase in the number of visits paid and a further development of the social aspects of the health visitors' work.

Figures relating to visiting and consultations were as follows:—

Children under 1 year—						
First visits	...	...	...	...	...	8,447
Re-visits (1st to child during year)	...	...	...	...	...	7,638
Other re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	22,880
Children between 1 and 2 years—						
First visits during year	...	...	...	...	...	7,857
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	13,269
Children between 2 and 5 years—						
First visits during year	...	...	...	...	...	17,435
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	25,104
Expectant mothers—						
First visits	...	...	...	...	...	2,064
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	1,678
General total visits—						
Infant death enquiry	...	...	...	...	...	78
Still birth enquiry	...	...	...	...	...	16
Aged persons	...	...	...	...	...	6,289
Care and after-care	...	...	...	...	...	841
Prevention of break-up of families	...	...	...	...	...	1,128
Mental health	...	...	...	...	...	401
Others	...	...	...	...	...	4,788
No access	...	...	...	...	...	7,221
Tuberculosis—						
First visits	...	...	...	...	...	381
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	2,518
Attendance at chest clinic	...	...	...	...	...	367
Visits to tuberculosis households	...	...	...	...	...	2,907
Miscellaneous—						
First visits during the year to families for all reasons	...	...	...	...	...	36,377
Number of consultations at headquarters	...	...	...	...	...	19,903
Total	...	...	...	...	...	189,587

It will be noted that the number of consultations at health visitors' headquarters, apart from the normal clinic sessions, continues to rise. Many of these consultations in respect of problems, other than those concerned with pre-school children, are an indication of the increasing awareness by the general public of the health visitor as family and social adviser. The maternity and child welfare centres are indeed becoming family advisory centres and in the rural areas telephone facilities provided for the health visitors in their own homes have enabled families and other social workers to contact the health visitors direct.

There was an extension of work in the maternity and child welfare service in one area in the testing of infants for phenylketonuria. Following a lecture at one of the health visitors' refresher courses, a report was given to the staff and a trial scheme for testing infants for this condition was commenced in Newburn.

An important development was undertaken in the field of early detection of deafness. Arrangements were made for Sir Alexander and the late Lady Ewing to come to the county to give instruction to members of the staff in methods of early detection of deafness in young children. Forty health visitors and two district nurses received this instruction. The course involved a considerable amount of detailed planning and tribute was subsequently paid to the senior health visitor at Whitley Bay centre for her excellent organisation of the course. My thanks are also due to the mothers who participated in the course.

On the completion of training of staff, the routine testing of children in groups at risk of deafness commenced and by arrangement with the ear, nose and throat specialist, children who do not pass the screening tests are referred to the Fleming Memorial Hospital for further diagnostic tests. This scheme will enable deaf and partially deaf children to commence their education early as it is of paramount importance that speech training and lip reading should begin before the normal school age.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

The general improvement in the standard of hygiene in the school population made routine hygiene surveys unnecessary in many areas. These surveys are undertaken at the discretion of the health visitor or on the request of the head teacher. Contact with the schools was maintained by frequent visits to discuss with the teachers health and social problems which may affect the child's education or adjustment to school life. The health visitors knowledge of the home and family background gained during the pre-school years is of value to both teachers and school medical officers in promoting a better understanding of the

children. Liaison between the school and home was maintained in all cases where follow-up was required for any reason. This liaison was further strengthened by the health visitors association with the parent teacher associations and several health visitors gave talks at association meetings.

The educational work in schools made good progress. The increasing early marriage age makes it important to give home-craft and mothercraft teaching to girls in the last year at secondary schools and health visitors have undertaken this teaching in all schools where the head teacher has requested their services.

Girls from eight schools gained the mothercraft certificate of the National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare—25 girls from one school gained the British Red Cross Society certificate. This was a substantial increase on last year's numbers. In 11 schools shorter courses of instruction were given. In several areas schoolgirls paid visits to the maternity and child welfare centres and transport was arranged in one area to bring girls from a rural school to observe a modern child welfare centre in action.

This early introduction to the local authority services will, no doubt, lead to a more intelligent use of them later. Courses of instruction were given at an approved school and also at a new technical school. At the latter, the health visitor gave the girls an opportunity for a personal interview and as a result many teenage girls asked for guidance on their personal problems.

CARE OF THE AGED.

The health visitors have been called upon to deal with numerous problems relating to the care of the aged. A good deal of time was spent in persuading old people to accept their growing limitations, to make the best use of their own resources and when necessary, to accept use of the statutory services available to them. They have also been concerned with family problems relating to "living in" and in trying to develop more tolerant attitudes between the different generations and in stimulating family responsibility and neighbourly assistance.

The problem of loneliness has been largely mitigated in many areas by the excellent services established by voluntary committees. Several health visitors serve on these committees and the co-operation of public health nursing and voluntary workers has provided a much more effective friendly visiting service. A two-way flow of information ensures that the old people are not neglected. Co-operation between the health visitor and district nurse has been invaluable each calling in the other when social or nursing problems needed their special attention.

GENERAL.

Health visitors have taken part in the practical training of student health visitors from the Newcastle Training School, Battersea College of Technology and London County Council. This contact with Northumberland public health nursing service during their training period was a valuable asset to recruitment and the expressions of appreciation received from the students, was evidence of the interest and enthusiasm of the staff in student training.

Health visitors have been called upon to give talks and lectures to numerous organisations including women's institutes, church groups, old people's welfare organisations and youth clubs. Lectures have been given by all the nursing officers to mothers' clubs and other organisations.

IN-SERVICE EDUCATION.

New legislation in the mental health field, working party reports and Ministry of Health circulars relating to the work of health visitors, have made in-service education of paramount importance. Health visitors attended refresher courses organised by the Royal College of Nursing, the Women Public Health Officers' Association and the Central Council for Health Education. In order that the remaining staff should benefit, reports of all these courses were given at the health visitors' quarterly conferences.

The parentcraft course arranged by the Central Council for Health Education and held in conjunction with the Newcastle Health Department, proved to be most stimulating.

The library was well used and several new books were added.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS.

In spite of the continued pressure to have young children protected against poliomyelitis, the introduction of triple antigen against these three diseases has produced a welcome improvement in the immunity index. The number of pre-school children who completed a full course of primary immunisation against diphtheria was 7,293 compared with 6,098 in the previous year and only 5,838 in 1957. The number of booster doses also increased considerably from 3,575 to 6,673.

In the table on page 36 the rapid increase in the popularity of triple antigen is seen by the rise from 2,597 to 5,216.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Sub-Committee Area.	Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1959.				Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (i.e. subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the year ended 31st December, 1959.		
	Age at Date of Final Injection.				Age at Date of Final Injection.		
	Under 1 year	1—4 years.	5—14 years.	Total.	1—4 years.	5—14 years.	Total.
North No. 1 ...	238	127	3	368	50	147	197
North No. 2 ...	364	155	22	541	152	187	339
Central ...	846	112	133	1,091	511	907	1,418
East ...	334	770	401	1,505	80	1,874	1,954
South ...	1,183	210	35	1,428	589	593	1,182
South-East ...	952	647	271	1,870	61	646	707
West ...	562	102	41	705	80	110	190
Wallsend ...	549	142	374	1,065	1	685	686
Totals ...	5,028	2,265	1,280	8,573	1,524	5,149	6,673
1958 Totals for comparison	4,069	2,029	443	6,541	1,401	2,174	3,575

A total of 7,253 children under the age of 15 years received protection against whooping cough. In the 12 years since immunisation against this disease was made available 40,778 children have been protected and the number of cases of the disease has fallen from 1,741 in 1948 to the lowest number ever of 285 last year.

WHOOPIING COUGH VACCINATION.

SUB-COMMITTEE AREA.	Triple Antigen.				Diphtheria and Pertussis.				Pertussis only.				Total.			
	Age at date of final injection.				Age at date of final injection.				Age at date of final injection.				Age at date of final injection.			
	Under 1 year.	1-4 years.	5-14 years.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1-4 years.	5-14 years.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1-4 years.	5-14 years.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1-4 years.	5-14 years.	Total.
North No. 1 ...	124	48	—	172	114	69	2	185	—	—	1	1	238	117	3	358
North No. 2 ...	253	95	5	353	111	53	8	172	—	—	—	—	364	148	13	525
Central ...	592	55	2	649	248	34	1	283	1	—	2	3	841	89	5	935
East ...	127	139	4	270	204	619	44	867	—	—	—	—	331	758	48	1,137
South ...	913	136	16	1,065	254	59	3	316	—	2	2	4	1,167	197	21	1,385
South East ...	559	730	123	1,412	54	46	31	131	3	7	4	14	616	783	158	1,557
West ...	520	71	25	616	29	10	2	41	5	1	4	10	554	82	31	667
Wallsend...	537	138	4	679	7	3	—	10	—	—	—	—	544	141	4	689
Totals ...	3,625	1,412	179	5,216	1,021	893	91	2,005	9	10	13	32	4,655	2,315	283	7,253
Totals 1958 ...	1,995	526	76	2,597	1,968	1,266	43	3,277	13	82	14	109	3,976	1,874	133	5,983

SMALLPOX.

There has been no recorded case of smallpox in Northumberland for over 25 years. The number of children being vaccinated against the disease has continued to rise so that, of the babies born, 3,390 were vaccinated, compared with 2,455 last year.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

SUB-COMMITTEE AREA.	Age at date of Vaccination.											
	Number vaccinated during period.						Number re-vaccinated during period.					
	Under 1 year	1 year	2—4 years	5—14 years	15 years or over	Total	Under 1 year	1 year	2—4 years	5—14 years	15 years or over	Total
North No. 1	198	85	20	14	13	330	—	1	14	33	65	113
North No. 2	211	137	21	16	21	397	—	3	1	8	63	75
Central ...	286	15	19	17	30	367	1	1	4	6	52	64
East ...	102	106	35	24	41	308	—	—	3	3	31	37
South ...	757	26	34	33	34	884	—	1	2	12	34	99
South-East	510	160	45	9	49	773	—	—	—	—	72	72
West ...	378	5	8	17	25	433	—	—	—	6	71	77
Wallsend ...	406	8	12	7	19	452	—	—	—	1	25	26
Total ...	2,848	542	194	137	223	3,944	1	6	24	69	463	563
Year 1958 Totals for comparison	2,152	303	178	121	196	2,950	—	1	28	48	465	542

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION.

By the end of the year under review, 103,031 children had received two injections and in addition the following groups had also received two injections:—

Young persons ...	25,945
Expectant mothers ...	4,464
General practitioners and their families ...	135
Ambulance staff and their families ...	153
Hospital staff and their families ...	1,534

During 1959, 66,269 persons received a third injection.

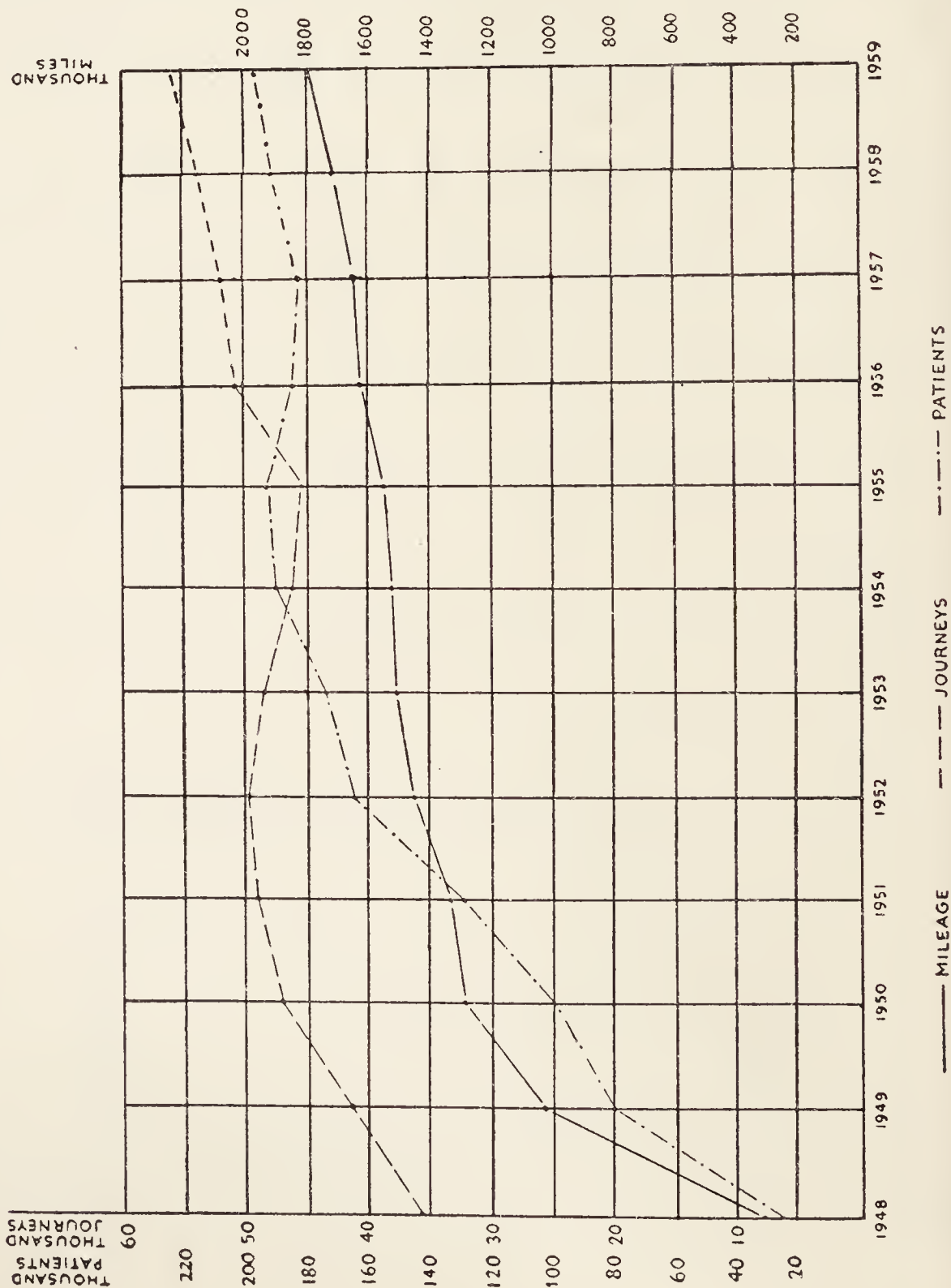
The percentage of eligible children vaccinated at the end of the year was 87% and 46% of persons under 26 years had been protected.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The detailed working of the service has been described in previous reports and no changes call for special mention this year. New depots at Morpeth, Blyth and Whitley Bay were under construction and extensions at Throckley and Wideopen were also started. It was expected that all these would be completed early in 1960.

The usual statistics will be found in Tables 17 and 18 and the graph on the accompanying page shows how the service continues to expand. The total mileage increased to 1,799,527, while the number of patients carried by ambulances and cars rose from 190,000 to 197,292. Agency arrangements with the British Red Cross Society, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and a private firm in Thropton continued and a very satisfactory service was given, while in the country districts local garages and private car owners provided a very useful ambulance car service.

TOTAL AMBULANCE SERVICE 1948-59



PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

Nursing equipment is loaned to patients from stores which are kept at area offices and in nurses' homes and during the last year there was a tremendous turnover of all sorts of equipment. Help has also been obtained from voluntary nursing committees in the districts and latterly a grant for after-care has been received from the Marie Curie Memorial Fund for the special needs of cancer patients.

Convalescent holidays continued to be of help, especially for women and children, and a total of 101 going on holiday was an improvement on 87 last year.

Rehabilitation and return to work after illness has been one of the main concerns of the almoner who has received help from the officers and staff of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the National Assistance Board.

Occupational Therapy.

The training of disabled persons by the provision of self-help aids has assisted several men and women to adapt themselves to a new way of living.

The visiting of sick and handicapped persons in their own homes by the staff of occupational therapists has continued and in addition classes at Blyth, Wallsend and Ashington have been fairly well attended.

Three exhibitions and sales of work took place during the year and, in addition, a display stand was organised for the County Agricultural Show at Alnwick. Patients' work was also entered in competition at the Tyneside Show at Corbridge and as a result one 1st, one 2nd and one 3rd prize were received. As this was their first effort in open competition the result was most praiseworthy.

Chest Clinic Service.

As tuberculosis declines as a disabling disease as well as a killer, the true preventive side of the picture can be increased. Cases of tuberculosis notified for the first time totalled 344 last year compared with 657 five years ago and 1,012 thirty years ago, while the number of deaths has now fallen to 24 compared with 73 in 1954 and 410 in 1930.

The examination of disease contacts was again stepped up and it is pleasing to record that nearly 2,000 children and adults had their chests examined either physically or by x-ray. This gives an average of 5.3 contacts per patient and is the highest figure ever achieved in this important preventive procedure.

Tuberculin testing of child contacts continued to be carried out at the chest clinics rather than at school. The school doctors tuberculin tested 4,123 children at school. The details are printed in the report on the School Health Service, but of the totals 2·2% of the school entrants were tuberculin positive.

Mass Miniature Radiography.

Two units, numbers 1A and 2 cover the county for routine checks with a mobile unit.

Unit 1A which is based on Newcastle General Hospital confines its visits to villages and factories near Newcastle and last year, the secretary reports that 1,653 factory workers and 2,149 of the general public were examined. No active case of pulmonary tuberculosis has yet been notified as a result of these 3,802 examinations.

Unit No. 2 which is based on Preston Hospital, North Shields, spent part of the year in the north of the county. The table on page 85 shows the details of the work.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

The scheme for the vaccination against tuberculosis of contacts of the disease and of school children, continued successfully and 1,113 of the former and 3,936 of the latter, were protected.

Since the scheme started in 1949, 20,120 children have been vaccinated.

On 1st May, an extension to include children of over 14 years and students at training colleges was introduced and during the first eight months 339 persons were vaccinated.

The number of persons vaccinated through the authority's approved arrangements under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act during the year ended 31st December, 1959, is shown below:—

(a) Contact Scheme—					
(i) No. skin tested ...	...	...	...	...	1,561
(ii) No. found negative ...	...	...	...	...	898
(iii) No. vaccinated ...	...	...	...	...	1,113
(b) School Children Scheme (under 14 years of age)—					
(i) No. skin tested ...	...	...	...	...	4,976
(ii) No. found negative ...	...	...	...	...	3,964
(iii) No. vaccinated ...	...	...	...	...	3,936
(c) Older School Children Scheme (14 years and upwards)—					
(i) No. skin tested ...	...	...	...	...	386
(ii) No. found negative ...	...	...	...	...	289
(iii) No. vaccinated ...	...	...	...	...	288
(d) Students attending Further Education Establishments—					
(i) No. skin tested ...	...	...	...	...	123
(ii) No. found negative ...	...	...	...	...	52
(iii) No. vaccinated ...	...	...	...	...	51

Details of this scheme are available in the report on the School Health Service.

Prevention of Break-up of Families.

The work of the co-ordinating committees has continued under the able guidance of the area executive medical officers, and the success that has been achieved in preventing the break-up of families has been due to the devoted work of health visitors, children's visitors, probation officers, school welfare officers and others.

At the end of the year there were on the central register 175 families regarded by the area co-ordinating committees as "problem families", 24 families having been added during the year and 43 families removed. Of the 43 removals, 21 families were removed because the co-ordinating committees considered that they were sufficiently improved to warrant this, 14 families left the county and 8 families broke up.

The special work of the Family Care Sub-Committee within this field was continued but it was still restricted on account of the inability to obtain the services of family caseworkers.

In an attempt to maintain the service in those areas where the family casework had already been operating and to extend the service to other parts of the county, a recommendation was made by the Family Care Sub-Committee that the establishment of caseworkers be increased from two to three, and this recommendation was approved by the County Council in February. In spite of this increase in establishment, only one caseworker was employed during the year.

On 1st October the County Council entered into an arrangement with the Northumberland and Tyneside Council of Social Service for the utilisation of 40% of the time of their social worker who endeavours to deal as far as possible with families with special problems or those on the verge of breakdown. This arrangement operates mainly in the south-east corner of the county.

The following table shows the work undertaken during the year by the County Council's family caseworker:—

(1) Number of families helped	...	...	...	14
(2) Number of new families taken into care	...	...	...	7
(3) Number of families discontinued care	...	...	...	6
(4) Number of children in families in (1)	...	...	...	76
(5) Number of children taken into care by Children's Department out of (4)	...	...	...	5
(These children came from two families. The care in one case was of a temporary nature while the mother was in hospital. The care of the other case was for a longer period due to treatment in a mental hospital of the mother.)				
(6) Highest and lowest number of families in care at any one time	...	...	...	10 7

Five cases were closed because no further improvement was likely to be obtained by continued visiting and the sixth case left the county.

Work with these families has continued along well established lines. Although progress is necessarily slow in most families where there are inadequacies in the personalities of the parents, some real improvement has been obtained in some of the families which have now been helped for several years and a more realistic attitude towards the payment of rent has been noted in two of the families which were consistently bad in this respect. In one new family of especially low intelligence, however, it was necessary for the worker to collect the rent in order to prevent the threatened eviction, with the hope that the family might eventually develop an improved attitude towards the payment of debts. Problems of mental health have been particularly noted in two of the families and the help of specialists has been sought.

One child was admitted to the Council's day special school which was made possible through relatives of the family living nearer to the school offering a home to the child.

An attempt was made to arrange holidays for some of the children through voluntary offers; one such holiday successfully took place through the help of the Chairman of the Family Care Sub-Committee and three were arranged through the W.V.S. who have also, as in the past, helped in providing clothing and some beds.

One family again revisited Brentwood Recuperative Centre in Cheshire as guests of the Centre for a holiday of nearly three weeks' duration.

During the year the worker attended the Annual Conference of the Association of General and Family Caseworkers in Dundee and also the Annual Study Weekend of the Family Service Units.

Prevention of Venereal Diseases.

CONTACT TRACING.

The total number of female contacts sought within the area was 23.

It was possible to identify all 23 contacts. 22 subsequently attended the clinic and one refused. The following diagnoses were made:—

Gonorrhoea	...	...	20
Non-venereal	...	...	2

VISITING.

As well as visits to contacts, the health visitor paid 248 visits to other patients, mainly defaulters from treatment. 13 patients were escorted to the clinic in an effort to promote regular attendance.

ANTE-NATAL SEROLOGICAL TESTS.

There were 3,826 serological specimens submitted from the department's clinics for examination during the year. Sixteen cases of maternal syphilis underwent treatment at the clinic prior to delivery and of the babies subsequently tested, 13 were found to be healthy; three had not been tested by the end of the year. There were no pregnancy accidents.

Health Education.

FILM SERVICES.

The G. B. Bell & Howell 16mm. sound film projector purchased at the end of 1958 proved to be very satisfactory. One hundred and twenty-eight film shows were arranged during the year as a result of requests from women's institutes, mothers' clubs, youth clubs and various other organisations.

Two additional film strip projectors were provided for the use of health visitors.

A new film entitled "Childbirth without Fear" was purchased in November; this film was greatly appreciated by the audiences to whom it was shown.

LECTURES.

It is interesting to record that two hundred and fifteen lectures were given to groups during the course of the year.

PROPAGANDA.

The leaflets and posters which are purchased centrally, after consultation with the field workers advisory panel, continued to be in great demand. There is evidence to show that some of the less palatable features of health education will only be impressed on the public by the concentrated use of propaganda, visual aids and lectures.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The service continued to be organised by the area executive medical officers with the assistance of three home help organisers based on area offices. Compared with last year's total of 3,391 cases a new record of 3,816 was reached. This figure includes 3,081 old people ill and in need of help. This real social service has enabled many old people to stay at home and has saved the hospital service and the Welfare Department much work.

Tables 19 and 20 give details of the work done during the year in each area.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

ADMINISTRATION.

Six duly authorised officers and 3 assistants dealt with cases under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and they also performed welfare duties under Part III of the National Assistance Act on behalf of the County Welfare Committee.

The occupation centres' staff consists of 3 qualified supervisors and 2 qualified assistants who hold the diploma of the National Association for Mental Health, also 9 female unqualified assistants, 1 male handicraft instructor and 3 female trainee assistants.

Two qualified teachers, one of whom is a part-time occupation centre supervisor, undertook teaching in the homes of mental defectives who reside in the rural areas of the north and west of the county.

TRAINING OF STAFF.

One supervisor and two unqualified assistants attended a week's refresher course in London for occupation centre staff organised by the National Association for Mental Health. Three of the staff are attending "In-Service" Diploma Courses for teachers of the mentally handicapped promoted by the National Association for Mental Health. This course is of two years' duration and is attended by the students one day weekly in Newcastle and this enables unqualified members of occupation centre staff who are unable to take a full-time course to have the benefit of training and an opportunity to qualify.

Arrangements were again made for two authorised officers to attend a refresher course for mental health workers at Leeds which was arranged by the National Association for Mental Health in conjunction with the Department of Adult Education and Extra-Mural Studies, University of Leeds.

CO-ORDINATION WITH HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES.

The relationship with the Regional Hospital Board, medical superintendents and general practitioners is most satisfactory and valuable assistance has been given by consultant psychiatrists in domiciliary visits to the homes of the mentally ill and mental defectives where advice is sought concerning the degree of urgency for the treatment of the patients.

Arrangements were made from time to time for patients to attend psychiatric out-patients' clinics, also mental deficiency hospitals for assessment purposes and the best method of treatment.

ACCOUNT OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY.

A summary of the work performed by the authorised officers under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts during the year is given in Table 21. The total number of cases referred through authorised agencies was 566 and in 148 no action under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts was taken while in 18 cases applications were made for admission of the patients into accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act. Of the remaining 418 cases referred, there were only 17 patients admitted from their homes to mental hospitals under section 16, the majority of the patients being admitted into designated hospitals under section 20 on "3 Day Orders." Of these patients 43% were admitted into mental hospitals informally or voluntarily and 36% were admitted under Order, the remainder of the patients returned home after a short stay in a designated hospital.

There were 115 patients informally admitted and 321 voluntarily admitted into the three mental hospitals situated in Northumberland, also 152 voluntary patients were admitted into a psychiatric unit of the General Hospital, Newcastle. Included in these numbers are 168 males and females who were originally dealt with under a "3 Day Order" and subsequently found to be suitable for admission as informal or voluntary patients.

Particulars relating to mental defectives are shown on page 97. The main source of reference of new cases is by the local education authority under section 57 (3) and (5) of the Education Act, 1944.

The problem remains in securing permanent hospital accommodation for mental defectives and 57 are awaiting such admission of whom 31 are urgent cases.

Short-stay care for varying periods was made for 50 mental defectives in hospitals under the provisions of the Ministry of Health Circular 5/52 and one child was admitted for a short stay in an approved home in Scotland. This type of care has proved beneficial in cases where the parent is ill or has not had a holiday for many years.

OCCUPATION CENTRES.

There are three full-time occupation centres and two part-time centres with a maximum number of places for 150 pupils under the 16 years age group and 80 places for adults of both sexes.

Arrangements are being made to establish a full-time centre at Berwick instead of the present part-time centre.

A new occupation centre has been built at Ashington to accommodate 40 children and 30 adults of both sexes and this building

was officially opened in the summer by Mr. W. J. Owen, M.P. This now replaces hired premises which were previously used to provide training for 33 pupils of all age groups.



Ashington Occupation Centre.

Progress continues to be maintained in the centres and the curriculum is based on the teaching of habit training, sense training, speech and physical training, music and movement and simple hand-work for the under 16 age group. The male adults have been occupied with simple handcrafts and woodwork and the female pupils were taught cookery, simple domestic duties and handcrafts of various types.

The pupils have been supplied with a mid-day meal and medical examination as well as dental treatment is provided for them by the Council's staff. A few of the pupils who do not live within walking distance of the centres and are not served by private transport are paid their fares to travel on public buses.

Various organisations have donated numerous gifts for the welfare of the pupils and these have been appreciated by both pupils and staff.

As in former years the annual open days with entertainments by the pupils were held at each centre and these were well attended by parents and friends who expressed appreciation of the standard of training which enabled the pupils to perform to such a high degree.

The pupils attended Christmas festivities at the centres and each received a small present.

NURSING HOMES.

Two maternity homes in Gosforth, having a total of 22 beds, continued to operate. One of these, together with a small home in Hexham, had accommodation for 12 patients requiring nursing. All three homes were regularly inspected and a high standard of attention was noted.

REGISTRATION OF HOMES FOR OLD AND DISABLED PERSONS.

Fourteen homes in Forest Hall, Gosforth, Hexham and Whitley Bay are registered in accordance with Section 37 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. The total number of beds in the homes is 145 and this is a great help in relieving pressure on the Council homes. Regular inspections are made by the County Welfare Officer and a member of my staff.

HOUSING.

NEW HOUSES.

The number of new houses erected in the county during 1959 was much the same as for the previous year, namely 2,900 as compared with 2,980, and details are shown in Table 24. It is, however, to be noted that the fall in council house building to which attention was drawn last year has continued to the point that the total of 677 was the lowest for any year since the early nineteen-thirties and, taken over the past two years, local authority building represents no more than the replacement of houses demolished for slum clearance. Private building on the other hand again showed an increase and the total of 1,994 was higher than for any year since the war. To keep these figures in perspective, however, it is worth remembering that as a result of the post-war house building programme and the condemnation of unfit privately owned properties, nearly 30% of the dwelling-houses in the county are by now municipally owned.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The number of houses put out of use during 1959 was 782, a slight increase over the previous year. With one year left of the original five-year period within which 4,506 unfit houses were expected to be demolished, 3,165 have already been dealt with so that it is becoming obvious that although the target figure may not quite be reached, the estimate was not unrealistic. The detailed summary (Table 25), however, shows some lack of uniformity in district councils' achievements in this field. Boroughs and urban districts, though some are lagging behind, show in the aggregate a reasonable degree of success with 2,629 out of 3,364 houses disposed of already. The rural picture of 536 out of 1,142 is less satisfactory, but one must be cautious in drawing conclusions here: the experience in the rural areas appears to have been that many houses included in the original estimate as not repairable at reasonable expense have been considered by their owners as worth reconditioning (with or even without the aid of grants as referred to in the succeeding paragraph) at a cost which before the war would have been regarded as most unrealistic. These cases will, of course, require to be deducted from the original estimate when a final assessment of the position is made. The Minister has, in fact, now called for a re-appraisal by all local authorities of their slum clearance programme as at the end of 1960 and when the result of this is known a more realistic picture of the county's unfit house problem will be available.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The most important development in this direction during the year was the coming into force in June of the House Purchase

and Housing Act, 1959, making available, as of right, for houses having the reasonable expected life of 15 years, grants for installing certain modern amenities, namely, bath, washhand basin, hot water system, water closet in or contiguous to the house and proper food store. Table 26 shows the result of the first six months' operation of this scheme, from which it will be seen that a small start has already been made in implementing what should prove to be a most useful piece of legislation. As an indication of the scope for work of this nature, the 1951 Census showed approximately 50,000 of the houses in the county to be without a bath. Allowing for 6,000 houses demolished since then, a further 3,000 likely to be demolished and 5,000 already reconditioned with the help of the existing improvement grant procedure, this should leave about 36,000 houses which could take advantage of the new standard grant for this necessary improvement alone. A similar calculation shows a probable 9,000 houses without separate water closet, and although here there must be excluded many rural dwellings where the installation of a water carriage system would be difficult at present, there could be added a further number, impossible to estimate, where a water closet exists, but not "in or contiguous to the house." The figures in the table therefore represent a very modest beginning and although it is too early yet to draw any conclusions therefrom, it would appear that the greater interest is again being shown initially in the rural districts, as was the experience with the original improvement grants.

Work under the last mentioned, now referred to as "discretionary grants" continued steadily during the year, the total recorded being exactly the same as for 1958, namely, 702, and as will be seen from Table 26, divided equally on this occasion between urban and rural authorities, each group having approved 351 applications. Already over 5,000 properties have been reconditioned in the county in this way in the ten years' operation of the scheme and there is no doubt that many of these have been so saved from premature demolition. One weakness of the grant procedure, however,—and this applies to both standard and discretionary grants—is now becoming apparent, and that is that the procedure must be initiated by the owner of the property, and local authorities having in their areas many houses capable of benefiting from such treatment are powerless where landlords are unwilling to act, legal sanctions being limited to actual disrepair. This is known to be engaging the attention of the Ministry at the moment.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The two most noteworthy developments during the year were the formal setting up of the Coquet Water Board, and the coming into force of the South West Northumberland Water Supply Order. The first-mentioned was the successful outcome of preliminary discussions and investigations and the new board formed by representatives of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, Tynemouth Corporation and the County Council, is intended to make available a bulk supply of water drawn from the River Coquet at Warkworth to the two major supply undertakings of Newcastle and Tynemouth and to those northern county districts whose present sources are insufficient. The board held its first meeting in June and no time was lost in commencing the necessary engineering works, so that by the end of the year a start had been made both at the river intake and with the southern trunk main to Tynemouth and Newcastle, and it seems probable that in spite of the delays of previous years during the planning stages, water from this source will now be available by 1961 as originally hoped.

In April the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company assumed complete responsibility for the supply in South West Northumberland within the areas of Hexham Urban and Rural Districts and Haltwhistle Rural District, these becoming part of the Company's statutory area. The Company will now proceed to extend their existing trunk mains into these districts, but are faced in the meantime with the difficulty of maintaining the existing supplies which they have taken over. The unusually dry summer of 1959 presented them with an immediate problem. Carting of water was necessary for some villages in the Hexham R.D.C. area from May onwards, while in the town of Hexham the shortage became critical in the early Autumn and severe restrictions were necessary. It was interesting, however, to note how this situation was handled by the Company who with the resources at their command were able, after obtaining the necessary Ministry sanction, to install in a few days a temporary pipeline to pump water from the River Tyne to the town reservoir for purification and so avoid a complete breakdown in supply. Such an operation would have been almost impossible for a small water authority in similar circumstances and is an illustration of one of the benefits to be derived from amalgamation of water undertakings. Fortunately within a week of the emergency the drought was broken and the temporary works could be dispensed with.

Shortages were also experienced in other districts, notably in the Alnwick Urban and Rural areas, but generally speaking the county fared better in the exceptional conditions of 1959 than

did many other parts of the country. In fact, in those districts already served by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and by the Tynemouth Corporation Water Department there was no necessity for any restriction to be imposed.

As regards re-grouping of water authorities this has now been achieved in the south and west of the county by the taking over of the remaining district undertakings by either Newcastle or Tynemouth. In the north, however, there was still no sign of agreement and in July a conference was held of the eight authorities concerned together with representatives of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the County Council. Re-grouping in this area will be primarily a matter of administration as any new undertaking will have to rely on basically the same sources of supply as are now in use or proposed (including the new public supply from the Coquet Water Board). At the conference there appeared to be little enthusiasm for the formation of a joint supply board, so the authorities concerned were advised by the Ministry's representatives each to consider the other alternative of a merger with either the Newcastle or Tynemouth undertakings; and discussions to that end were still in progress at the end of the year.

The bacteriological examination of water is undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory at the General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne. Copies of the reports on water samples submitted by authorities in the administrative county are received in the department and any unsatisfactory results are investigated. 1,218 samples were taken during the year (exactly the same number as for 1958) from both public and private supplies. 759 were highly satisfactory, 121 satisfactory, 55 suspicious and 283 unsatisfactory. Many of the unsatisfactory samples were accounted for by special investigations into individual private sources or by tests of water taken before treatment.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There was little of note to report under this heading during the year. Reconstruction of sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements at Alnwick, Morpeth and Bedlington continued to make progress and a few village schemes were completed in other areas. Mention might be made of the fact that it was at long last possible to commence work on the sewerage of Holy Island. The delay over this scheme in consequence of the necessity to protect fishing interests and the unique historic character of the Island has been most frustrating and the cost of the scheme is likely to be considerable. The existing primitive conditions have, however, long been a cause for concern.

RURAL WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE ACTS, 1944-55.

Schemes submitted for Approval.

During the year the County Water Supplies and Sewerage Committee reconsidered their policy regarding grants to district councils, having regard to the new Rate Deficiency Grants payable by the Exchequer to county district councils in respect of all services including water and sewerage. It was decided not to vary the formula for payment of grant under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts, but a new basis for calculation was adopted for grants under section 56 of the Local Government Act, 1958 (formerly section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936) to take account of the new financial circumstances. Existing grants will not however be affected. The following schemes were submitted during the year for approval under section 2 of the 1944 Act:—

Belford Rural District	... Improved water supply for Bamburg and Seahouses	£ 25,700
Bellingham Rural District	Water supply scheme for Stannersburn	1,221
Hexham Rural District	... Sewage treatment works for Hums- haugh village	6,248
Morpeth Rural District	... Replacement of sea outfall sewer for Broomhill	3,700
	Sewerage and sewage treatment works for Ulgham village	13,219
	Water mains extensions: Ferneybeds (£1,005) and Hadstone (£2,043) housing estates	3,048
	Comprehensive water scheme for south-western portion of district	75,200
	Extension of water mains from Wid- drington to Broomhill water tower (previously supplied by Amble U.D.C.)	7,700
	Reconstruction of sewage treatment works, Pegswood	27,000
Norham and Islandshires Rural District	Water supply scheme for Cornhill and Tillmouth parishes	20,960

In addition the following were approved for grant under section 56 of the Local Government Act, 1958:—

Bedlingtonshire Urban District	Stage I of comprehensive sewerage scheme for district	£ 205,450
Prudhoe Urban District	... Gravity sewer from Mickley to main sewage treatment works, Low Prudhoe (existing Mickley works to be abandoned)	13,676

Ministry Inquiries and Investigations.

Local inquiries and investigations into the following proposed schemes were held by Ministry of Housing and Local Government inspectors:—

- (a) An investigation at Alnwick on the 28th January into an application by the Alnwick Rural District Council to borrow £27,000 for works of sewerage and sewage treatment for Togston village.
- (b) An investigation at Berwick upon Tweed on the 18th March into an application by Berwick Corporation to borrow £90,000 for improvements to the town water supply.
- (c) An investigation at Ponteland on the 7th April into contract 2 of the Castle Ward Rural District Council's main drainage scheme for Ponteland and district (£47,624).
- (d) An investigation at Morpeth on the 8th April into the Morpeth Rural District Council's comprehensive water scheme for the south-western part of the district (£75,200).
- (e) An investigation at Morpeth on the 1st September into the Morpeth Rural District Council's application to borrow £27,000 for reconstruction of sewage treatment works, Pegswood.
- (f) An investigation at Morpeth on the 2nd September into the Morpeth Corporation's scheme for extensions of sewerage system to serve new areas of housing development (£22,000).
- (g) An investigation at Berwick on the 27th October into the Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council's scheme for water supply to Cornhill and district (£20,960).

My department was represented on these occasions and, where appropriate, evidence was given in support of the schemes.

Work in Progress.

The following are details of work in progress in the county during the year, with some indication of the stage reached by 31st December:—

<i>District.</i>	<i>Scheme.</i>	<i>Progress.</i>
Morpeth Borough	Sewerage and sewage treatment works reconstruction	50% completed.
Alnwick U.D. ...	Provision of new sewage treatment works	90% completed.
Bedlingtonshire U.D.	Main drainage scheme for district...	Cambois sea outfall completed, Stage I of main scheme 75% completed.
Castle Ward R.D.	Stannington, Station Road sewage treatment scheme	90% completed.
	Main drainage scheme, Ponteland and district, Contract 2	Contract placed.
Glendale R.D. ...	Regional water supply scheme, Contract 6: Mindrum reservoir and booster	75% completed.
Hexham R.D. ...	Comprehensive water supply scheme for district (by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company)	7% completed.
Morpeth R.D. ...	Water supply scheme for south-west of district	60% completed.
Norham and Islandshires R.D.	Holy Island sewerage scheme ...	Commenced.
Rothbury R.D. ...	Sewerage and sewage treatment scheme, Whittingham	50% completed.

Schemes completed during Year.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Scheme.</i>	<i>Month.</i>
Alnwick R.D. ...	Water supply, Springwell borehole...	December.
Bellingham R.D.	Water supply scheme, Stannersburn	October.
Castle Ward R.D.	Sewerage and sewage treatment scheme, Fenwick	May.
Glendale R.D. ...	Regional water supply scheme:—	
	Contract 3: Wooler-Milfield ...	March.
	Contract 4: Milfield-Branxton ...	January.
	Contract 5: Branxton-Wark ...	July.
Haltwhistle R.D.	Sewage treatment works, Longbyre	December.
Hexham R.D. ...	Sewage treatment works, Whitton-stall	February.
	Sewerage and sewage treatment scheme, Haydon Bridge	November.
Norham and Islandshires R.D.	Sewerage and sewage treatment scheme, Cornhill	June.
Rothbury R.D. ...	Sewerage and sewage treatment scheme, Longframlington	August.

MILK.

Biological Examination of Milk.

As was expected, the progress of the Area Eradication Plan for bovine tuberculosis has reduced the amount of work being done on routine biological testing of milk supplies for tubercle. From the samples submitted for guinea pig inoculation during the year, only one positive case was reported. Upon investigation the infection was presumed to have been from a cow sold for slaughter and subsequently condemned, but before the case could be satisfactorily written off the whole herd was dispersed, the animals being sold fat, and milk production ceased. It is learned from the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture that 1959 was the first year during which there was not a single case recorded in Northumberland of compulsory slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order.

A proportion of the samples for tuberculosis investigation was also examined biologically for *Brucella Abortus* and in particular all raw milk supplied to schools was so tested. No report of infection with this disease was received.

Food and Drug Acts, 1955.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-54.

The following figures obtained from the County Agricultural Executive Committee show the progress in attestation of dairy herds and the issue of Tuberculin Tested milk licences:—

		31st Dec., 1959.	31st Dec., 1958.
Attested and Tuberculin Tested	...	725	702
Attested not Tuberculin Tested	...	253	239

The total number of registered dairy herds in the county again showed a decrease during the year from 1,031 to 992. (As a matter of interest, the corresponding figure for 10 years ago was approximately 1,500). There were, therefore, only 14 milk producers, or 1·4% of the total, with non-attested herds remaining to be dealt with by compulsory testing and slaughter of reactors under the Area Eradication Plan, due to be put into operation in Northumberland early in 1960. 73% of producers held Tuberculin Tested licences at the end of the year, as compared with the 1958 figure of 68%. As an indication of the progress in this direction it may be remarked that 10 years ago the figure was 17% and at the end of 1945, just after the war, a mere 80 of the county's dairy farms were licensed for the production of tuberculin tested milk.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-53.

PASTEURISED MILK.

There was no change during 1959 in the arrangements for the pasteurisation of milk in the county. The number of dairies licensed for the purpose continued at 6 and the total quantity of milk treated remained steady at about 24,500 gallons per day. Four of the firms were also licensed to bottle "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" milk which constituted about 20% of the total throughput. The dairies concerned were regularly inspected by the County Health Inspector and samples of treated milk were taken for Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. Washed bottles were also taken from time to time for bacteriological examination.

Number of inspections made	...	...	177
Number of samples taken at dairies	...	...	223

In all cases the samples satisfied the Phosphatase test showing that heat treatment had been correctly carried out. There were, similarly, no failures of the Methylene Blue test for keeping quality, though four of the tests were rendered void by high atmospheric temperature.

The pasteurising plants, which are all on the H.T.S.T. system, were maintained in satisfactory condition, such minor defects as were brought to the notice of the dairy managers being quickly dealt with. An opportunity was taken, with the coming into force of the 1959 Milk Regulations, to carry out a detailed re-survey of the six dairies and various suggestions were made to the firms concerned to bring their premises and methods into line with the new law. All of these were accepted and acted upon. The only case of difficulty was over the supply of protective clothing and headgear. The new regulations make this compulsory, but do not stipulate who should be responsible between the employers and the employee for its provision. A dispute arose between one dairy management and its staff, and this took some time to resolve. The remaining firms decided at the outset to undertake the responsibility themselves, though there appears to be a strange reluctance on the part of some employees to wear a suitable head covering while working with open milk and several warnings have had to be given about this. Smoking in milk rooms was also a matter which had to be firmly dealt with at one establishment.

Out of 144 bottles from the plants examined bacteriologically, 22 failed to reach the standard of cleanliness recommended by the Public Health Laboratory Service. Almost all of these emanated from one particular dairy, and following representations on the subject the manufacturers of the bottle-washing plant were called in to advise. The standard used for assessing the

cleanliness of these bottles is purely an advisory one and has no force of law, so that statutory action was not appropriate when in the case referred to there was no evidence of deterioration in the quality of the milk as a result.

In an attempt to reduce bottle losses during the summer in the caravan and camping sites in the coastal area one firm experimented with a small cartoning plant with the intention of developing this further if successful. Unfortunately, experience so far has not been encouraging. At another larger dairy, fully automatic bottle-handling machinery was installed during the year and proved satisfactory in operation. Though such a plant does increase the risk of a dirty or defective bottle slipping through undetected, up to the end of the year there appeared to have been no cause for complaint in that direction.

STERILISED MILK.

The two plants licensed for milk sterilisation continued in operation during the year and gave satisfactory results. Fifty-seven visits of inspection were made to the premises and 53 samples taken at the dairies all satisfied the Turbidity test. In view of the limited value of this statutory test, occasional samples were also submitted for plate count and all showed that a good standard was being maintained. There is need for a more stringent test for milk of this designation, though it is difficult at the moment to see what form it might take. The ultra-high temperature plant with continuous in-bottle steriliser, installed by the larger of the two firms in 1958, proved itself reliable in service and a continued increase in sales was reported for what is to many consumers a more attractive product than the original "sterilised milk" with its distinctive flavour and colour.

SPECIFIED AREA.

The beginning of the year found 38% of the county area containing some 82% of the population, covered by a "specified area," within which the sale of milk other than tuberculin tested, pasteurised, or sterilised was no longer legal. This area stretched from industrial Tyneside, northwards up to and including the Alnwick and Rothbury rural districts. On the 6th April this area was extended by Ministry order to the south-west of the county including Prudhoe, Hexham, Haltwhistle and Bellingham, so bringing approximately 94% of the county population within the scheme. Enforcement was a matter for the Health Department on behalf of the County Council as a food and drugs authority and in such a scattered rural area close supervision is not easy. Nevertheless, no undue difficulty was experienced, though on this occasion many visits were necessary to certain retailers who, in spite of adequate notice, found themselves on the operative date with their arrangements not yet fully completed. It was necessary

for the Minister to issue 15 consents to retailers to dispense with the requirements of the order where immediate compliance was impossible and no alternative milk supply existed. These were additional to two cases outstanding from the area designated in 1958, making 17 in all, but by the end of the year the number had fallen to 9. In most cases the amount of milk involved was extremely small. Towards the end of the year preliminary notice was received of the Minister's intention to specify the remainder of the county, consisting of the four most northerly districts, in the spring of 1960. In some of the more remote villages there has inevitably been some criticism of this policy when it has resulted in the discontinuance of what was a convenient local supply, in favour of a designated milk brought from further afield, but the two-pronged attack upon milk-borne disease represented by the specified area procedure, nearly completed, and the compulsory tuberculin testing of cattle, now beginning, should finally put an end to human tuberculosis of bovine origin.

Milk in Schools Scheme.

Set out below are details of the supply of milk under the above scheme to all schools, county and non-maintained, as at 31st December, 1959:—

Grade of Milk.				No. of Schools.	Percentage of Schools.	Percentage of Pupils.
Pasteurised	...	...	...	338	86.7	97.3
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	40	10.3	2.4
Ungraded	...	...	...	4	1.0	0.1
No fresh milk	...	...	...	8	2.0	0.2

Fresh tenders were invited during the year for the supply of milk, and contracts were again placed for a three-year period. It is felt that in view of the capital outlay necessary for dairymen to purchase one-third pint bottles, crates, etc., it is unreasonable to make arrangements on a year-to-year basis, providing the supply is satisfactory. That this policy is appreciated by the trade was evidenced by the keen tendering which resulted in the more densely populated part of the county. In the rural districts the situation was not so fortunate, there being many schools in remote areas for which tenders are never received. In such cases firm contracts could not be placed and the supply continued to be a matter for local arrangement.

The number of schools receiving pasteurised milk again increased and only in some of the smaller country establishments was untreated milk being delivered. In only four of these was it impossible to obtain tuberculin tested milk, but the supplies accepted for these were at least known to be from attested herds. The number of cases where, in spite of repeated efforts, fresh

milk could not be obtained at all remained at 8, all small isolated schools with only a few pupils. One of these made use of reconstituted dried milk and the remainder were receiving flavoured milk tablets.

All new sources of supply were subject to prior approval by the department and regular samples from all sources were taken for examination, particular attention being paid to those schools receiving raw milk, in which cases routine biological testing was also carried out. From the point of view of supervision of school milk arrangements, to ensure both continuity and safety, a disproportionate amount of time has to be spent on these smaller supplies.

A spot check made during October revealed that the proportion of school children making use of the service under the scheme was exactly the same as in 1958, namely 85·5%.

ICE CREAM.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959.

The new regulations superseding those of 1947-1952 were issued during the year and were mainly a consolidating measure, laying down specified methods for the pasteurisation or sterilisation of ice cream mix before freezing. In the accompanying circular to the Regulations the Ministry commended to local authorities the continued use of the Methylene Blue grading test for the provisional measurement of the bacteriological cleanliness of ice cream. Samples are examined by this test, free of charge, at the Public Health Laboratory and in Table 27 will be found details of the results obtained in the various county districts. In spite of the Ministry's recommendation it will be seen that 10 districts did not submit any samples during the year. The total number of samples taken was 430, the highest since the testing service was begun. The results showed that a satisfactory standard was being maintained. It is suggested by the Ministry that, taken over a period, 50% should reach Grade I and 80% Grades I and II combined. The actual figures for the county for 1959 were 76.3% and 83.7% respectively. Only 7% were reported as Grade IV, a reduction on the previous year's percentage.

The successful operation of the ice cream regulations can be judged by the steady improvement in these results over the past 11 years since sampling was begun, and by the recent opinion expressed by experts in the Public Health Laboratory Service that ice cream can now be considered one of the safest foods as far as bacterial food poisoning is concerned.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

(Mr. C. L. Arlidge).

During the year ended 31st December, 1959, the County Sampling Officers procured a total of 2,789 samples under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and the Preservative Regulations.

The samples may be summarised as follows:—

<i>Article.</i>	<i>No. taken.</i>
Bacon	4
Baking powder	8
Beer... ..	10
Bread	26
B.P. official preparations and household medicaments	86
Butter and margarine	37
Cake and pudding mixtures	27
Canned fruit and vegetables	18
Cereals	45
Cheese and cheese spread	26
Christmas puddings	2
Cocoa	2
Coffee and coffee and chicory essence... ..	23
Condensed milk	13
Condiments, sauces, flavourings, pickles, etc.	88
Cream	22
Custard powder	17
Dried fruit	6
Fish and fish cakes	39
Flour	14
Flour confectionery	23
Gelatine	4
Ground almonds	9
Ice cream	49
Jam, marmalade, syrup, etc.	76
Juices (tomato and vegetable)	4
Lard, cooking fat, etc.	33
Marzipan	9
Meat products (open and tinned)	97
Milk	1,423
Milk powders	9
Milk puddings	8
Mincemeat	11
Mixed spices	14
Pastes (meat and fish)	19
Sausages	100
Soft drinks... ..	94
Soups	36
Spirits (gin, whisky, etc.)	34
Sugar confectionery	83
Sugar and icing sugar	11
Table jellies	22
Tea	13
Vinegar	45
Wines	5
Miscellaneous (unclassified samples)	45
Total ...	<u>2,789</u>

Adulterated or Unsatisfactory Samples.

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Analyst's report.</i>	<i>Action taken.</i>
Tea	Contained a fragment of glass	Packers notified.
Minced Beef ...	Contained 82% of meat— articles sold under an un- qualified description should contain not less than 95% of designated meat	The canners agreed to amend the descrip- tion.
Butter Madeira Cake } Butter Fruit Cake }	Only 50% of fat content was butter fat. The term Butter Madeira Cake implies that all the fat is butter fat	The manufacturers agreed to delete the word "butter" from the description.
Pork Sausages ...	Contained 59% of meat in- stead of the recommended figure of 65%	The maker was warned to exercise more supervision during the mixing opera- tions.
Milk	46% deficient in fat	The producer retailer was fined £5 0s. 0d. with £17 17s. 0d. costs.
Cherry Juice ...	An incorrect description for a mixture of cherry juice and sugar	Importers instructed to re-label the pro- duct with an accurate translation of the foreign label.
Special Rum and Butter Toffee— Artificial flavour	The sample contained no Rum and only 5% of butter in a total fat content of 19·5%	Manufacturers instruc- ted to amend the description.
Pork Sausages ...	Contained 60·5% of meat instead of the recommend- ed figure of 65%	Maker advised to amend his recipe.
Pork Sausages ...	Contained 60·4% of meat instead of the recommend- ed figure of 65%	Makers advised to amend their recipe.
English Cheddar Cheese	Heavily contaminated with penicillium mould	The unsold stock of this was returned to the packers.
Pork Sausages ...	Contained a preservative, the presence of which was not declared to the purchaser	Butcher cautioned.
Beef Sausages ...	Contained a preservative, the presence of which was not declared to the purchaser	Butcher cautioned.
Whipped Cream Snowballs	Contained no butter fat ...	Manufacturers instruc- ted to delete the word "cream" from the description.
Beef Sausages ...	Contained a preservative, the presence of which was not declared to the purchaser.	Butcher cautioned.
Flowers of Sulphur	A slight excess in acidity ...	Irregularity due to lengthy storage. Re- mainder of stock destroyed.
Ground Cinnamon...	Devoid of pungency and fla- vour	Deficiency due to lengthy storage. Re- mainder of stock destroyed.

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Analyst's report.</i>	<i>Action taken.</i>
Cumberland Pork Sausages	Contained a preservative, the presence of which was not declared to the purchaser	A fine of £4 0s. 0d. was imposed at West Castle Ward on the 15th July, 1959.
Orange Drink ...	Contained not more than 10% of orange substance	No action possible in view of ambiguity of Soft Drinks Standards Order.
Milk ...	9% deficient in fat	} "Appeal to Cow" samples showed that the deficiencies were due to natural causes and not to the abstraction of cream.
Milk ...	19.3% deficient in fat	
Buttered Scones ...	Contained margarine ...	A fine of £2 0s. 0d. was imposed at West Castle Ward on 30th September, 1959.
Buttered Scones ...	Contained margarine ...	Case dismissed.
"Slimvin" Red Wine Vinegar	No declaration of nature and quantity of minerals said to be present	Efforts to trace the source of supply—unsuccessful.
Creamed Sago Pudding	Declaration of ingredients not in accordance with Labelling of Food Order	Manufacturers requested to amend their label.
Barluze ...	Contained only $\frac{1}{5}$ th of Vitamin B declared on label	Production now ceased.
Minced Beef ...	Contained 19% of extraneous gravy	Manufacturers agreed to amend description of product to Minced Beef and Gravy.
Chocolate Spread ...	The claim that "the article gives 50% more energy than bread and butter alone" is misleading	Manufacturers agreed to amend statement.
Jellied Pork ...	Contained only 75% pork ...	Manufacturers to amend description to Pork Gelatine.
Pork Sausages ...	Contained sulphur dioxide, the presence of which was not declared to the purchaser	Vendor cautioned.
Milk Chocolate Cake Covering	Ingredients incorrectly declared	Manufacturers to amend declaration.
Milk ...	Contained—	} The case against the producer, J. R. Dungait, of Hebron East Farm, was dismissed. An employee, T. Scott, was fined £8 0s. 0d. and ordered to pay £33 12s. 0d. costs.
	9.4% extraneous water	
	8.2% do.	
	12.9% do.	
	1.2% do.	
	9.4% do.	
	12.9% do.	
	11.8% do.	
	4.7% do.	
	2.4% do.	
	12.9% do.	
	8.2% do.	
	6.3% do.	
	6.3% do.	
	11.8% do.	
	6.3% do.	
	4.7% do.	

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Analyst's report.</i>	<i>Action taken.</i>
Cough Mixture ...	73% deficient in chloroform	The remaining stock was destroyed.
Rock ...	Contained an unscheduled dye	Manufacturers cautioned.
Pork in Natural Juice	Contained 10% of extraneous water	Manufacturers now out of business.
Glauber Salts ...	Contained approximately twice as much therapeutically active compound of Genuine Salts	A new design of packet will bear a warning in a prominent position.
Tea ...	Contained a large wooden splinter	Reported to packers.
Full Cream Milk Food	Contained only 0.45mgm. per ounce of iron	Manufacturers advised to institute a more comprehensive analytical control.
Brandy Butter ...	The article should have been described as Brandy Flavoured Butter as it contained only 1.5% of Brandy	Manufacturers agreed to increase amount of brandy in the recipe.

On the 1st January, 1959, Mr. J. G. Sherratt, of Warrington, became the Public Analyst for the county in succession to Mr. C. J. H. Stock who resigned on the grounds of ill-health.

Despite the greater distance over which samples have to be transported, no difficulties or inconvenience have been experienced and the advice and guidance so readily given by Mr. Stock have been found to be equally available whenever Mr. Sherratt's assistance has been sought.

Whilst the number of instances in which the nature of the irregularity called for the institution of legal proceedings remained small, a perusal of the above list will show that some manufacturers or packers do not exercise sufficient care over the description and labelling of their products.

Of the 1,423 samples of milk taken during the year, 1,363 were taken informally to determine where and when, in certain cases, to take formal samples and also to gain some knowledge of what improvements were effected after producers had been informed that milk produced by their cows was below the standard. These samples were tested by the Inspectors in their offices immediately after sampling and apart from effecting a substantial saving in analytical fees, speedy results are obtained, on which the necessary future action with regard to formal sampling can be determined.

Advertising matter on packets and labels, in the newspapers and periodicals, on hoardings and on the television screen has been regularly scrutinised and, where necessary, representations made for a modification of the advertisement so as to remove ambiguous or misleading statements or claims.

WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

The aggregate number of handicapped persons registered under the Council's schemes increased from 1,879 to 1,961 during the twelve months. During the period there were 275 new registrations or re-classifications.

Social case work was increasingly one of the main functions of the home teachers and welfare visitors, and much of their time was spent in helping the blind and other handicapped persons with their personal and family problems.

The staff also played a part in helping to rehabilitate disabled persons by encouraging them to do things for themselves and persuading relatives not to over indulge them, by obtaining special gadgets and appliances for them and showing them how they were used, by showing them how to make useful and saleable articles, and by giving them encouragement to mix with other people and join in social activities.

Blind and Partially Sighted.

REGISTRATION.

Ophthalmologists carried out 198 examinations and re-examinations of applicants for registration during the year as compared with 191 in 1958. As a result, 92 were newly registered as blind and 52 as partially sighted. 43 were referred to the Department by ophthalmologists and medical practitioners, 41 by National Assistance Board officers, 24 by the Department's staff—health visitors, home teachers, home help organisers, etc.—and 36 through other sources.

During the year 3 children were registered blind, two of whom had previously been partially sighted and 4 children were ascertained as being partially sighted, one having previously been registered blind. Of the 8 blind and 8 partially sighted people in the 16—64 age group, only one blind man and two partially sighted men were suitable for full-time work. The remainder of the newly registered (81 blind and 40 partially sighted) were over 65 years of age.

Approximately 64% of the numbers registered on 31st December were over 65 years of age, as this table shews:—

		BLIND.			PARTIALLY SIGHTED.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5	...	2	—	2	—	3	3
5—15	...	10	5	15	21	10	31
16—20	...	4	3	7	5	1	6
21—49	...	60	44	104	22	13	35
50—64	...	63	68	131	14	17	31
65 plus	...	179	278	457	56	128	184
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		318	398	716	118	172	290
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

CAUSES OF BLINDNESS.

Cataract was the primary cause of failing vision of more than one-third of the persons registered during the year. Of 34 persons reported to be blind as a result of this condition, ten had had no recent specialist advice, but the majority of them were old and frail, two being in their nineties and six in their eighties.

Eleven blind and 6 partially sighted persons were registered as a result of glaucoma. All except three of these patients had had specialist treatment or advice prior to certification; of the patients who had had no specialist advice, two aged 88 and 92 respectively were too old and frail for treatment, but arrangements were made for one woman to have immediate treatment.

The cause of blindness of one of the children who were certified blind was associated with prematurity. A premature baby was certified blind at the age of 10 months due to retrolental fibroplasia, this child had not had oxygen.

The other two cases were a blind girl aged 7 certified as partially sighted at five, whose blindness was due to optic atrophy and pigmentary degeneration of the retina, and a boy of 14 partially sighted from the age of 6, whose blindness was caused by congenital subluxation of the lens and detachment of the retina.

No question of infection or any external agent arose with any of these children, and in the present state of our knowledge it is not possible to say how their blindness could have been prevented.

HOME TEACHERS.

10,294 visits were paid as compared with 9,828 in 1958. There was a reduction in the number of domiciliary lessons given, but an additional craft class was established at Prudhoe, making a total of eight regular classes held in various areas in the County. 21 persons received regular domiciliary lessons in Braille and 18 in Moon type reading.

SOCIAL WELFARE.

Many elderly people took a new "lease of life" after joining in the activities of one of the clubs for the blind organised by the voluntary committees in co-operation with the home teachers. The twelve voluntary committees for the blind and the two for blind and other handicapped each received grants from the Northumberland County Blind Persons Trust Fund, to which fund the Royal National Institute for the Blind allocated a proportion of its collections as hitherto.

One newly registered blind man was sent to a course of social rehabilitation at Oldbury Grange, and 24 blind persons went on holiday to special homes at Harrogate, Scarborough and Blackpool.

Many aged blind and partially sighted persons living on their own or with an aged relative had the services of a home help which was of invaluable assistance in helping them to remain at home.

The Council continued to give grants to the National Library for the Blind and Tynemouth Library for the Blind in respect of library services.

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING BLIND.

Arrangements were made for a deaf blind woman and a deaf partially sighted youth to have courses of social rehabilitation at the Kathleen Chambers Home for Deaf Blind, Burnham-on-Sea. The woman benefited considerably from the course, but the youth's course was not completed owing to difficult behaviour. For the third successive year a party of four deaf-blind and their escorts joined other deaf-blind in the northern region on a holiday arranged by the North Regional Association for the Blind. The deaf-blind now look forward to these holidays as an annual event. It gives them an opportunity of meeting and mixing with people similarly afflicted.

On 31st December there were 15 deaf-blind registered as follows:—

Deaf without speech	...	...	...	...	5
Deaf with speech	...	...	...	...	7
Mentally defective—deaf with speech	...	...	...	...	1
Physically defective—deaf without speech	...	...	...	...	2
					<hr/> 15 <hr/>

In addition, 99 registered blind persons were hard of hearing.

EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND REHABILITATION.

The employment position at the end of the year was as follows:—

	Blind.	P.S.
Employed in Workshops for the Blind	25	—
Employed under Home Workers' Scheme	2	—
Employed in other capacities	31	31
Undergoing training (open)	1	—
Attending University	1	—
Trained but unemployed (sheltered)	1	—
Trained but unemployed (open)	1	—
Suitable for employment without training	3	3
Not available or capable of employment		
16—64 years	180	37
At school over 16	—	1
		<hr/> 245 <hr/>
		<hr/> 72 <hr/>

A blind man and woman (both newly blinded) underwent courses of industrial rehabilitation at the Royal National Institute for the Blind's centre at Torquay and were subsequently placed in employment. A young blind man was employed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the established staff as a shorthand typist. A partially sighted young woman obtained employment with the Civil Service Commission in London as a recorder typist, and a partially sighted youth, who had a course of training in assembly work at Letchworth after he left Hethersett Pilot Establishment, was placed in employment in a factory. Arrangements were made for a blind man to do some light assembly work at home for a local firm. During the year a physiotherapist was approved as a home worker.

NICHOLAS GARROW HOME.

During the year, by enlarging one of the bedrooms, it was possible to increase the accommodation from 30 to 31. Ten people were admitted as permanent residents, five for temporary periods and twenty re-admitted following holidays or periods in hospital. Four died in the home and four were transferred to another home or hospitals.

Weekly services of a non-denominational character and periodical concerts by voluntary artistes continued to be arranged, and although the majority of the residents are aged, those who were able to get out and about were encouraged to do so and to take part in organised outings.

BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN.

Details of blind and partially sighted children are shewn in Table 28 on page 105.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

REGISTRATION.

There were 285 registered deaf and hard of hearing in the following age groups on 31st December:—

	Under 16.	16—64.	65 and over.	Total.
Deaf	67	158	22	247
Hard of Hearing ...	5	25	8	38
	<u>72</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>285</u>

SOCIAL WELFARE AND EMPLOYMENT.

The staff of the Northumberland and Durham Mission to the Deaf paid 1,131 visits during the year as follows:—

Homes.	Hospitals.	At work.	To and on behalf of deaf.	Total.
640	201	48	242	1,131

97 visits were paid by home teachers.

Seven deaf people were placed in employment during the year and the Mission's staff, in addition, consulted with employers when difficulties arose in connection with deaf employees.

Other Handicapped Persons.

REGISTRATION AND VISITS.

The majority of people registered were in the 16—64 group, as will be seen in the following figures indicating the numbers registered on 31st December:—

Children under 16.	Persons 16—64.	Persons aged 65 and over.
51	579	40

During the year the number registered increased from 591 to 670. The classification is shewn in Table 29 on page 107.

Owing to the expanding register and increasing duties of existing staff, an additional welfare visitor was appointed and the districts were re-organised. A duly authorised officer continued to act as welfare visitor for the generally handicapped in the extreme north of the county.

During the twelve months 2,993 visits were paid by the staff to and on behalf of the generally handicapped as compared with 2,043 in 1958.

SOCIAL WELFARE.

Assistance towards the cost of structural alterations was given to thirteen persons. The majority of the alterations were concerned with outside work to assist in the passage of invalid chairs and motor propelled vehicles, but some indoor adjustments were included. Financial assistance was also given for gadgets and other appliances, while it was sometimes possible to improvise and construct simple gadgets for individual needs for a very small cost.

A number of the handicapped who have been on holiday through the Council's scheme on two or three occasions have now come to look forward to them as annual events, despite the fact that in some cases they were reluctant to leave home in the first place when a holiday was suggested. Some had lived such sheltered lives that they hesitated to go away to mix with people but the holidays have resulted in them making friends and very frequently in becoming more self-reliant and less dependent upon others. Efforts are made to include in the holiday arrangements each year people who have not been before.

The British Red Cross Society Junior Cadets, through their Commandant, again extended invitations for handicapped children to attend their holiday camp at Glanton, when two cadets undertook to look after each handicapped child. In some cases this afforded an opportunity to the parents to go away for a change.

Towards the end of the year an additional voluntary committee was established at Longbenton, which meant that there were twelve voluntary committees for the blind, two for the blind and generally handicapped and five for generally handicapped functioning in the county.

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT.

Three young women were admitted to rehabilitation centres but only one remained for the full course, while four young women were placed in employment, two in a factory, one doing domestic work and one as a clerk. Arrangements were made for a woman who had lived for many years in a County Council home to be admitted to Dorincourt Estates, Leatherhead, and she was approved as a worker by the Ministry of Labour.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY.

The occupational therapists employed by the Health Department continued to devote part of their time to the generally handicapped. The majority of the patients were keen to learn and they were appreciative of the help given.

EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS.

Seven adult epileptics were newly registered under the Council's scheme during the year, and on 31st December there were 63 adults registered. In addition, there were 45 children known to the Department.

A man and a youth were admitted to colonies, but the latter did not settle and left after a few days. However, the other 8 epileptics maintained by the Council in colonies all appeared to be happily settled. Two young girls attended Lingfield Hospital School. One was discharged as being incapable of further training. The other completed training, but efforts by the welfare visitor and Ministry of Labour to place her in suitable employment were unsuccessful.

Eight adult spastics were newly registered during the year, and at the end of the year 61 adults were registered. Sixty-six children were registered, of whom 16 were ineducable.

The experimental Day Workroom for young spastics, opened in conjunction with Percy Hedley School for Spastics in 1958,

progressed, and in December six workers from the county area attended. The spastics attending were considered unemployable and the aim was to occupy them with simple assembly work executed on behalf of local firms. The project was successful and the Council continued to make a grant.

HOME FOR HANDICAPPED.

The Council decided that a plan should be prepared for a home for generally handicapped persons, and efforts were made to find premises which would be suitable for conversion. It was felt that a home with 30 to 38 beds would be a convenient size. It is proposed to include provision for short term admissions as well as permanent accommodation.

TABLES
of
STATISTICS
1959

TABLE 1.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

POPULATION—YEAR 1959

BOROUGHs :—

Berwick-upon-Tweed	...	...	...	...	...	12,610
Blyth	...	...	...	...	...	34,760
Morpeth	...	...	...	...	...	11,730
Wallsend	...	...	...	...	...	49,950
Whitley Bay	...	...	...	...	...	33,600
						<hr/> 142,650

URBAN DISTRICTS :—

Alnwick	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,270
Amble	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,900
Ashington	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,210
Bedlingtonshire	...	...	...	...	...	...	29,480
Gosforth	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,950
Hexham	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,330
Longbenton	...	...	...	...	...	...	47,780
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,100
Newburn	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,330
Prudhoe	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,190
Seaton Valley	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,510
							<hr/> 227,050

RURAL DISTRICTS :—

Alnwick	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,470
Belford	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,040
Bellingham	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,390
Castle Ward	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,510
Glendale	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,430
Haltwhistle	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,310
Hexham	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,030
Morpeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,420
Norham and Islandshires			...	...	...	...	4,190
Rothbury...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,510
							<hr/> 105,300
Totals	...						<hr/> 475,000 <hr/>

TABLE 2.
POPULATION—DISTRIBUTION FOR PURPOSES OF
AREA ADMINISTRATION.

AREA.				POPULATION.
North No. 1	...	...		29,270
North No. 2	...	...		30,150
Central	...	...	...	67,460
East...	...	...	...	64,240
South	...	...	...	86,424
South East...	...	...	...	107,890
West	...	...	...	39,616
Wallsend	...	...	...	49,950
TOTAL				475,000

TABLE 3.
VITAL AND MORTALITY STATISTICS.

YEAR.	Birth rate per 1,000 living.	General death rate per 1,000 living.	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births.	Principal Infectious Diseases death rate per 1,000 living	Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 living.
1901	33.22	18.72	183.57	2.80	1.25
1902	32.76	16.63	126.90	1.40	1.25
1903	32.58	16.81	145.43	1.58	1.19
1904	29.42	17.12	168.69	1.99	1.17
1905	30.41	15.01	133.57	1.26	1.02
1906	29.09	14.52	136.28	1.51	1.04
1907	28.25	13.51	112.93	1.03	1.00
1908	29.46	14.82	146.41	1.28	0.95
1909	28.43	13.39	106.99	1.03	1.01
1910	26.91	12.99	114.73	1.01	0.93
1911	27.48	13.96	136.79	1.94	0.98
1912	27.05	12.98	93.80	1.02	0.86
1913	26.43	13.61	111.39	1.28	0.91
1914	26.61	13.31	113.78	1.33	0.91
1915	24.42	15.82	122.00	2.04	1.03
1916	21.91	13.75	101.00	0.84	1.10
1917	20.39	13.60	101.00	0.97	1.06
1918	21.54	17.26	101.00	1.07	1.22
1919	22.14	14.11	102.00	0.92	0.97
1920	28.30	12.89	90.00	0.76	0.92
1921	25.50	12.42	95.00	1.01	0.87
1922	22.54	12.72	87.00	0.41	0.88
1923	22.56	11.33	76.00	0.74	0.85
1924	22.18	12.06	83.00	0.40	0.82
1925	20.88	11.63	82.00	0.67	0.78
1926	20.02	11.37	77.00	0.53	0.73
1927	17.90	11.53	77.00	0.27	0.81
1928	18.37	11.39	67.00	0.28	0.68
1929	16.79	12.22	81.00	0.65	0.74
1930	17.13	11.02	62.00	0.23	0.78
1931	16.66	12.24	77.00	0.41	0.75
1932	15.94	11.33	67.00	0.25	0.68
1933	15.42	11.93	71.00	0.31	0.65
1934	15.48	11.78	69.00	0.43	0.60
1935	15.60	11.67	71.00	0.32	0.53
1936	15.26	12.02	70.00	0.30	0.55
1937	15.16	12.67	66.00	0.26	0.54
1938	15.00	11.76	64.00	0.31	0.40
1939	14.80	11.84	55.50	0.20	0.52
1940	15.00	12.44	59.00	0.17	0.55
1941	15.07	12.84	74.00	0.25	0.51
1942	16.39	11.59	54.00	0.20	0.39
1943	17.61	12.50	56.00	0.18	0.51
1944	19.87	12.16	48.00	0.21	0.50
1945	17.58	12.24	50.00	0.17	0.47
1946	19.74	11.98	48.00	0.13	0.49
1947	20.66	12.14	43.00	0.13	0.44
1948	18.04	11.13	40.00	0.09	0.43
1949	17.52	11.92	36.00	0.08	0.37
1950	16.69	12.24	36.60	0.08	0.28
1951	16.46	12.58	32.49	0.07	0.24
1952	16.08	11.25	29.37	0.08	0.17
1953	16.90	11.78	28.46	0.08	0.16
1954	16.26	12.23	27.03	0.06	0.15
1955	16.34	12.06	26.75	0.05	0.15
1956	16.51	11.87	25.80	0.03	0.11
1957	16.68	11.49	23.51	0.05	0.06
1958	17.08	12.05	24.03	0.05	0.06
1959	17.23	11.56	23.58	0.04	0.04

TABLE 4.
GENERAL STATISTICS.

	NUMBERS.			RATES.		
	Boro's and Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Total for County.	Boro's and Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Total for County.
Population	369,700	105,300	475,000	—	—	—
Births (Live)	6,514	1,670	8,184	17.62	15.86	17.23
Legitimate	6,319	1,620	7,939	17.09	15.38	16.71
Illegitimate	195	50	245	0.53	0.48	0.52
				(Per 1,000 population)		
Births (Still)	140	34	174	21.04	19.95	20.82
Legitimate	133	32	165	19.99	19.37	20.36
Illegitimate	7	2	9	34.65	38.46	35.43
				(Per 1,000 registered births)		
Births (Live and Still)	6,654	1,704	8,358	18.00	16.18	17.59
Legitimate	6,452	1,652	8,104	17.45	15.69	17.06
Illegitimate	202	52	254	0.55	0.49	0.53
				(Per 1,000 population)		
Deaths (Total)	4,125	1,370	5,495	11.16	13.01	11.56
				(Per 1,000 population)		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	160	33	193	24.56	19.76	23.58
Legitimate	154	32	186	24.37	19.75	23.43
Illegitimate	6	1	7	30.77	20.00	28.57
				(Per 1,000 live births)		
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	114	29	143	17.50	17.37	17.47
Legitimate	108	28	136	17.09	17.28	17.13
Illegitimate	6	1	7	30.77	20.00	28.57
				(Per 1,000 live births)		
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age	93	24	117	14.28	14.37	14.30
Legitimate	88	23	111	13.93	14.20	13.98
Illegitimate	5	1	6	25.64	20.00	24.49
				(Per 1,000 live births)		
Maternal Deaths	5	1	6	0.75	0.59	0.72
				(Per 1,000 births—live and still)		

Births. Deaths.

Comparability Factors

(Administrative County) 0.98 1.09

Rates per 1,000 population after
adjustment 16.9 12.60

TABLE 5.
BIRTHS (LIVE AND STILL).

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	LIVE.					STILL.					Total Births— Live and Still.
	Leg.		Illeg.		Total	Leg.		Illeg.		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		
Boroughs :—											
Berwick-upon-											
Tweed ...	134	126	5	2	267	1	1	—	—	2	269
Blyth ...	345	337	13	17	712	6	6	—	1	13	725
Morpeth ...	108	107	4	3	222	1	3	—	—	4	226
Wallsend...	478	443	14	17	952	9	13	—	—	22	974
Whitley Bay ...	270	225	13	9	517	8	2	—	—	10	527
Urban Districts :—											
Alnwick ...	79	48	1	2	130	6	1	—	—	7	137
Amble ...	58	35	1	1	95	3	—	—	—	3	98
Ashington ...	240	203	6	7	456	3	4	—	1	8	464
Bedlingtonshire	248	215	8	11	482	7	5	—	—	12	494
Gosforth ...	208	214	7	7	436	5	6	—	—	11	447
Hexham ...	68	77	2	2	149	1	1	—	—	2	151
Longbenton ...	442	404	10	7	863	4	9	—	—	13	876
Newbiggin-by-											
the-Sea ...	78	88	6	1	173	2	2	—	—	4	177
Newburn...	276	219	4	3	502	6	7	2	1	16	518
Prudhoe ...	77	79	1	—	157	3	1	—	—	4	161
Seaton Valley ...	193	197	6	5	401	4	3	1	1	9	410
Rural Districts :—											
Alnwick ...	101	93	4	6	204	1	2	1	—	4	208
Belford ...	49	33	—	1	83	1	3	—	—	4	87
Bellingham ...	48	53	2	1	104	1	1	—	—	2	106
Castle Ward ...	151	181	5	2	339	1	—	—	—	1	340
Glendale ...	46	46	1	1	94	1	—	—	—	1	95
Haltwhistle ...	58	43	—	2	103	—	—	—	1	1	104
Hexham ...	159	126	1	7	293	4	5	—	—	9	302
Morpeth ...	168	121	5	6	300	7	5	—	—	12	312
Norham and											
Islandshires ...	28	22	—	1	51	—	—	—	—	—	51
Rothbury ...	54	40	5	—	99	—	—	—	—	—	99
TOTALS ...	4164	3775	124	121	8184	85	80	4	5	174	8358

TABLE 6.
INFANT DEATHS.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Live Births.	FIRST YEAR.		FIRST MONTH.		FIRST WEEK.	
		Infant Deaths under 1 year	Infant Mortal- ity Rate per 1000 live births.	Infant Deaths under 4 weeks of age.	Death Rate per 1000 live births.	Infant Deaths under 1 week of age.	Death Rate per 1000 live births.
<i>Boroughs.</i>							
Berwick	267	4	14·98	2	7·49	2	7·49
Blyth	712	16	22·47	12	16·81	9	12·64
Morpeth	222	6	27·03	5	22·52	4	18·02
Wallsend	952	26	27·31	12	12·60	7	7·35
Whitley Bay	517	10	19·30	7	13·54	7	7·49
<i>Urban Districts.</i>							
Alnwick	130	1	7·07	1	7·07	1	7·07
Amble	95	3	31·58	2	21·05	2	21·05
Ashington	456	12	26·30	10	21·94	10	21·94
Bedlingtonshire	482	9	18·67	6	12·45	5	10·37
Gosforth	436	10	22·94	7	16·06	6	13·76
Hexham	149	6	40·27	5	23·55	5	23·55
Longbenton	863	24	27·90	20	23·17	15	17·38
Newbiggin-by-the- Sea	173	3	17·34	1	5·77	1	5·77
Newburn	502	21	41·83	16	31·87	13	25·89
Prudhoe	157	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seaton Valley	401	9	22·44	8	19·95	6	14·94
<i>Rural Districts.</i>							
Alnwick	204	4	19·61	4	19·61	3	14·71
Belford	83	2	24·09	1	12·05	—	—
Bellingham	104	1	9·61	1	9·61	1	9·61
Castle Ward	339	6	17·61	5	14·74	4	11·79
Glendale	94	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haltwhistle	103	2	19·61	2	19·61	1	9·71
Hexham	293	7	23·88	7	23·88	7	23·88
Morpeth	300	7	23·33	6	20·00	5	16·66
Norham and Islandshires	51	2	39·21	1	19·61	1	19·61
Rothbury	99	2	20·20	2	20·20	2	20·20
TOTALS	8,184	193	23·58	143	17·47	117	14·30

TABLE 7.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Acute Encephalitis.		Meningococcal Infection.	Food Poisoning.	Dysentery.	Diphtheria	Paratyphoid Fever	Malaria (contracted abroad)	TOTALS.
							Infective	Post Infective							
Boroughs.															
Berwick ...	—	14	—	8	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Blyth ...	14	6	7	886	8	1	—	—	—	4	12	—	—	1	939
Morpeth ...	2	—	3	225	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	234
Wallsend ...	11	58	5	1234	16	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1327
Whitley Bay	9	8	—	457	6	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	482
Urban Districts.															
Alnwick ...	7	—	—	4	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Amble ...	3	1	—	99	1	—	—	—	—	1	18	1	—	—	124
Ashington ...	2	13	1	462	1	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	493
Bedlingtonshire ...	19	10	—	466	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	502
Gosforth ...	8	17	6	458	28	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	—	538
Hexham ...	—	4	—	113	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	122
Longbenton	46	29	1	1221	12	2	—	—	—	1	15	—	—	—	1327
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	11	—	—	229	—	1	—	1	—	—	26	—	—	—	268
Newburn ...	13	49	2	621	28	1	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	736
Prudhoe ...	28	8	1	379	9	2	—	—	1	—	15	—	—	—	443
Seaton Valley	12	9	2	373	4	2	1	—	—	7	10	—	—	—	420
Rural Districts.															
Alnwick ...	21	3	—	70	2	—	—	1	—	5	19	—	—	—	121
Belford ...	2	20	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	52
Bellingham ...	1	4	—	34	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	44
Castle Ward	9	10	2	281	3	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	310
Glendale ...	4	1	—	48	3	—	—	1	—	—	11	—	—	—	68
Haltwhistle ...	25	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	34
Hexham ...	11	18	2	413	13	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	461
Morpeth ...	19	2	1	259	2	1	—	—	—	2	63	—	—	—	349
Norham and Islandshires	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Rothbury ...	2	1	1	53	4	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	80
Totals...	279	285	34	8432	155	18	2	4	2	22	284	1	1	1	9520

No cases of Acute Poliomyelitis, Smallpox, Enteric or Typhoid Fevers, or Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year.

TABLE 8.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS (Year 1959) ACCORDING TO DISEASE.

	BOROUGH AND URBAN DISTRICTS.			RURAL DISTRICTS.			TOTAL COUNTY.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	12	4	16	3	1	4	15	5	20
Tuberculosis (Other) ...	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
Syphilitic Disease ...	4	3	7	3	—	3	7	3	10
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Meningococcal Infections ...	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	5	3	8	2	1	3	7	4	11
Malignant Neoplasm—									
Stomach ...	62	48	110	18	18	36	80	66	146
Lung, Bronchus ...	143	20	163	16	5	21	159	25	184
Breast ...	—	56	56	—	18	18	—	74	74
Uterus ...	—	26	26	—	17	17	—	43	43
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	197	157	354	49	54	103	246	211	457
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	6	4	10	1	1	2	7	5	12
Diabetes ...	2	26	28	3	5	8	5	31	36
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	292	348	640	126	158	284	418	506	924
Coronary Disease, Angina Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	474	263	737	144	91	235	618	354	972
Other Heart Disease ...	32	51	83	8	14	22	40	65	105
Other Circulatory Disease ...	259	344	603	104	115	219	363	459	822
Influenza ...	78	62	140	30	36	66	108	98	206
Pneumonia ...	20	17	37	4	5	9	24	22	46
Bronchitis ...	94	73	167	32	16	48	126	89	215
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	164	55	219	23	11	34	187	66	253
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	21	12	33	9	4	13	30	16	46
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	25	12	37	11	5	16	36	17	53
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	9	5	14	—	6	6	9	11	20
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	12	11	23	2	4	6	14	15	29
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	25	—	25	9	—	9	34	—	34
Congenital Malformations ...	—	5	5	—	1	1	—	6	6
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ...	18	21	39	4	6	10	22	27	49
Motor vehicle accidents ...	173	173	346	45	53	98	218	226	444
All other accidents ...	29	8	37	21	4	25	50	12	62
Suicide ...	67	45	112	21	20	41	88	65	153
Homicide and operations of war ...	29	13	42	9	2	11	38	15	53
	2	1	3	—	—	—	2	1	3
TOTALS ...	2257	1868	4125	698	672	1370	2955	2540	5495

TABLE 9.

DEATHS FROM CANCER

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Population.	Stomach.	Lung, Bronchus.	Breast.	Uterus.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia.	TOTALS.		RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION	
								Excluding Leukaemia Aleukaemia.	Including Leukaemia Aleukaemia.	Excluding Leukaemia Aleukaemia.	Including Leukaemia Aleukaemia.
Boroughs—											
Berwick ...	12,610	5	5	2	—	11	—	23	23	1.82	1.82
Blyth ...	34,760	12	20	3	4	47	—	86	86	2.47	2.47
Morpeth ...	11,730	3	2	2	—	11	1	18	19	1.54	1.62
Wallsend ...	49,950	17	30	6	1	31	1	85	86	1.70	1.72
Whitley Bay	33,600	11	18	11	3	35	3	78	81	2.32	2.41
Urban Districts—											
Alnwick ...	7,270	1	3	—	1	11	—	16	16	2.20	2.20
Amble... ..	4,900	—	1	—	2	5	—	8	8	1.63	1.63
Ashington ...	28,210	6	13	4	2	23	—	48	48	1.70	1.70
Bedlingtonshire	29,480	13	12	—	3	29	—	57	57	1.93	1.93
Gosforth ...	25,950	12	16	3	2	42	—	75	75	2.89	2.89
Hexham ...	9,330	3	3	6	1	8	—	21	21	2.25	2.25
Longbenton ...	47,780	5	13	5	1	31	2	55	57	1.15	1.19
Newbiggin-by- the-Sea ...	10,100	2	9	1	—	7	—	19	19	1.88	1.88
Newburn ...	27,330	11	11	7	2	28	2	59	61	2.16	2.23
Prudhoe ...	10,190	3	2	1	2	11	1	19	20	1.87	1.96
Seaton Valley	26,510	6	5	5	2	24	—	42	42	1.58	1.58
Rural Districts—											
Alnwick ...	12,470	2	5	1	5	14	—	27	27	2.17	2.17
Belford ...	5,040	—	—	2	1	3	—	6	6	1.19	1.19
Bellingham ...	5,390	—	—	1	—	5	—	6	6	1.11	1.11
Castle Ward ...	20,510	6	1	3	1	19	—	30	30	1.46	1.46
Glendale ...	7,430	6	—	1	1	10	—	18	18	2.42	2.42
Haltwhistle ...	7,310	3	2	2	—	6	—	13	13	1.78	1.78
Hexham ...	20,030	10	6	2	3	22	2	43	45	2.15	2.25
Morpeth ...	17,420	7	3	3	3	13	—	29	29	1.67	1.67
Norham and Islandshires	4,190	1	—	2	2	3	—	8	8	1.91	1.91
Rothbury ...	5,510	1	4	1	1	8	—	15	15	2.72	2.72
TOTALS ...	475,000	146	184	74	43	457	12	904	916	1.90	1.93

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE 10.

STATISTICS—YEARS 1928 TO 1959.

YEAR.	NOTIFICATIONS.			DEATHS.			DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.		
	Respira- tory.	Other Forms	All Forms	Respira- tory.	Other Forms	All Forms	Respira- tory.	Other Forms	All Forms
1928	780	357	1,137	277	107	384	0.68	0.26	0.94
1929	722	265	987	301	108	409	0.74	0.26	1.00
1930	730	282	1,012	321	89	410	0.78	0.22	1.00
1931	642	272	914	309	100	409	0.75	0.25	1.00
1932	592	247	839	279	93	372	0.68	0.23	0.91
1933	519	195	714	268	81	349	0.65	0.20	0.85
1934	502	212	714	249	85	334	0.60	0.21	0.81
1935	378	207	585	218	77	295	0.53	0.19	0.72
1936	392	165	557	224	66	290	0.55	0.16	0.71
1937	338	149	487	219	78	297	0.54	0.19	0.73
1938	347	190	537	164	64	228	0.40	0.16	0.56
1939	288	130	418	216	58	274	0.52	0.14	0.66
1940	343	111	454	226	58	284	0.55	0.14	0.69
1941	346	116	462	208	51	259	0.51	0.13	0.63
1942	298	116	414	156	36	192	0.39	0.09	0.48
1943	458	125	583	202	50	252	0.51	0.13	0.64
1944	506	134	640	195	43	238	0.50	0.11	0.61
1945	608	127	735	186	47	233	0.47	0.12	0.59
1946	454	116	570	200	42	242	0.49	0.10	0.59
1947	439	125	564	186	39	225	0.44	0.09	0.53
1948	442	137	579	187	32	219	0.43	0.07	0.50
1949	506	104	610	160	26	186	0.37	0.06	0.43
1950	519	116	635	124	26	150	0.28	0.06	0.34
1951	523	87	610	105	18	123	0.24	0.04	0.28
1952	519	91	610	77	15	92	0.17	0.04	0.21
1953	480	111	591	71	12	83	0.16	0.03	0.19
1954	556	101	657	66	7	73	0.15	0.01	0.16
1955	564	79	643	67	8	75	0.15	0.02	0.17
1956	399	68	467	50	5	55	0.11	0.01	0.12
1957	356	69	425	26	7	33	0.06	0.01	0.07
1958	340	57	397	28	4	32	0.06	0.01	0.07
1959	309	35	344	20	4	24	0.04	0.01	0.05

TABLE 11

NOTIFICATIONS AND MORTALITY AT SPECIFIED AGE PERIODS
DURING THE YEAR 1959.

AGE PERIODS.			* NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
			Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.			Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.		
			M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
0—	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
1—	...	...	1	4	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
5—	...	...	6	10	16	1	5	6	—	—	—	—	1	1
15—	...	...	95	101	196	9	10	19	1	1	2	—	—	—
45—	...	...	56	18	74	2	6	8	8	3	11	1	—	1
65 and upwards...			15	3	18	—	—	—	6	1	7	—	—	—
TOTALS	...		173	136	309	13	22	35	15	5	20	2	2	4

* Includes new cases coming to the knowledge of the County Medical Officer other than by formal notification.

TABLE 12
MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY.

AREA.		Number of X-ray Films.	Number referred to Chest Clinic.	New Cases of Tuberculosis notified.	% Cases of Tuberculosis.
Wallsend	... ..	6,603	78	3	0·04
Whitley Bay	...	1,686	28	1	0·06
Bedlington	... ..	1,176	22	1	0·08
Blyth...	... ..	1,457	31	7	0·47
Cambois	... ..	450	12	1	0·22
Ashington	... ..	633	6	0	0·0
Morpeth	... ..	598	4	0	0·0
Seaton Delaval	...	249	10	0	0·0
Alnwick	... ..	955	8	1	0·10
Berwick	... ..	918	7	1	0·10
Longbenton	} ...	3,802	Not known	0	0·0
Prudhoe					
Lemington					
Gosforth					
Newburn	}				
Mental Hospitals	...	1,293	45	0	0·0
Approved Schools	...	338	3	0	0·0
TOTALS	...	20,158	254	15	0·07

CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

TABLE 13.

WORK OF THE ALMONERS

Home Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	295
Sanatorium Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	969
Seen at Chest Clinics	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	758
Details of help given :—								
After-Care Sub-Committees :	Extra nourishment	...	...	...	...	...	...	242
	Bedding and clothing	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
	Travelling expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
	Other help	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
National Assistance Board :	Allowances	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
	Bedding and clothing	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
	Travelling expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Extra nourishment	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
	Other help	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Resettlement :—								
To Ministry of Labour D.R.O.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
To Government Training Centre or Industrial Rehabilitation Unit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Attended Resettlement Clinics	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Commenced work	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
To convalescent holiday	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Cases for help were also referred to Nursing Care Committees, home help, occupational therapy and handicapped persons services, housing departments, welfare, probation and children's services, P.C.H.A., S.S.A.F.A., W.V.S., N.S.C.R., British Legion, British Red Cross Society, Marie Curie Foundation and the Moral Welfare Association.

TABLE 14.
CONVALESCENCE.

Year.	ADMISSIONS.				Number of convalescent days.
	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.	
1955	29	66	8	103	2,269
1956	22	58	7	87	1,749
1957	20	61	5	86	1,716
1958	19	52	16	87	2,076
1959	10	69	22	101	1,287

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DENTAL SERVICE.

TABLE 15.

EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS—Number provided with Dental Care.

	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.
Number examined	1,550	1,758	1,829	1,592	1,447
Needing treatment	1,294	1,472	1,524	1,327	1,206
Treated	1,125	1,261	1,270	1,106	1,005
Attendances	5,376	5,826	5,868	5,846	5,343
Made dentally fit	982	966	998	1,016	904

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN—Number provided with Dental Care.

	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.
Number examined	2,424	2,328	1,966	1,757	1,641
Needing treatment	2,025	1,948	1,638	1,464	1,368
Treated	1,749	1,655	1,365	1,220	1,140
Attendances	2,896	2,630	2,261	2,033	1,910
Made dentally fit	1,582	1,433	1,184	1,109	1,013

EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS—Forms of treatment provided.

	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.
Extractions	5,595	5,796	5,953	4,779	4,833
Anaesthetics—Local	1,729	1,358	1,560	1,019	1,061
General	326	354	395	338	373
Fillings	1,430	1,477	1,543	1,633	1,808
Scalings or scaling and gum treatment	370	401	457	480	412
Silver nitrate treatment	31	32	29	25	21
Dressings	299	361	369	295	293
Radiographs	309	284	280	218	228
Dentures—Complete	596	642	724	747	688
Partial	247	326	277	293	221
Repairs	65	34	42	33	40

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN—Forms of treatment provided.

	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.
Extractions	4,267	3,720	3,122	2,908	2,148
Anaesthetics—Local	76	33	40	32	75
General	1,179	1,081	877	799	606
Fillings	736	693	625	540	859
Scalings or scaling and gum treatment	39	47	60	30	38
Silver nitrate treatment	996	841	803	679	531
Dressings	134	164	93	69	50
Radiographs	7	19	21	6	10
Dentures—Complete	5	5	2	Nil	2
Partial	5	5	Nil	Nil	2
Repairs	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE 16.

Year.	Nurses and Midwives employed.	Private Midwives in County.	M I D W I F E R Y.								Ante-natal Visits.	Post-natal Visits.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
			Attended by Midwives.	Attended by Private Midwives.	Inhalation Analgesia.		Pethidine.	Nursing Visits.					
					Gas/Air	Trilene							
1955	119	16	2,426	340	1,302	233	1,397	53,406	13,330	4,744	14		
1956	120	13	2,273	331	696	914	1,114	55,488	14,672	5,133	21		
1957	117	11	2,200	281	460	1,360	1,064	56,498	16,606	5,520	18		
1958	120	12	2,394	338	236	1,643	1,176	58,481	19,286	6,324	56		
1959	121	15	2,400	364	223	1,705	1,159	59,161	23,207	6,756	18		

Year.	G E N E R A L N U R S I N G .						Old Persons over 65 years.		Children under 5 years.	
	New Cases.			Visits to All Cases.			Cases.	Visits.	Cases.	Visits.
	Medical.	Surgical.	Others.	Total.	Medical.	Surgical.				
1955	6,551	4,311	746	11,608	165,523	61,689	3,690	121,133	782	5,446
1956	6,255	3,513	608	10,376	163,259	56,523	3,735	121,139	597	4,897
1957	6,085	3,259	669	10,013	168,284	54,145	3,775	130,296	589	4,803
1958	4,788	2,788	551	8,127	161,460	51,028	3,240	128,388	513	4,166
1959	4,728	2,733	577	8,038	156,830	57,499	3,122	125,007	517	4,864

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

TABLE 17.

AMBULANCES AND SITTING CASE CARS.

AREA.	FIRST QUARTER.			SECOND QUARTER.			THIRD QUARTER.			FOURTH QUARTER.			TOTAL.		
	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.
North No. 1	538	1,287	30,909	587	1,630	34,497	621	1,565	34,711	549	1,659	29,360	2,295	6,141	129,477
North No. 2	610	1,822	35,125	649	2,301	41,204	675	2,385	39,063	702	2,474	38,517	2,636	8,982	153,909
Central	2,301	8,074	75,575	2,389	8,441	75,592	2,278	7,455	73,136	2,375	8,464	75,023	9,343	32,434	299,326
East	1,690	7,696	51,919	1,861	7,406	51,967	1,969	6,530	49,199	1,856	7,145	50,288	7,376	28,777	203,373
South East	1,653	5,893	45,639	1,744	5,976	46,734	1,885	5,992	46,607	1,697	6,438	44,314	6,979	24,299	183,294
South	2,710	9,839	76,585	2,781	9,673	77,000	2,867	9,343	78,346	2,920	10,104	79,838	11,278	38,959	311,769
Wallsend	1,641	4,633	22,291	1,609	5,190	23,643	1,668	4,381	22,065	1,649	4,641	23,163	6,567	18,845	91,162
West	1,210	4,647	44,516	1,333	5,190	50,197	1,296	4,614	46,312	1,295	5,160	47,012	5,134	19,611	188,037
Total	12,353	43,891	382,559	12,953	45,807	400,834	13,259	42,265	389,439	13,043	46,085	387,515	51,608	178,048	1,560,347

AMBULANCE CAR SERVICE.

North No. 1	240	697	16,675	339	1,005	20,944	333	1,132	19,550	369	1,320	22,893	1,281	4,154	80,062
North No. 2	2	14	51	13	42	234	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	56	285
Central	57	304	2,586	93	438	4,117	120	504	5,782	117	507	5,432	387	1,753	17,917
West	577	2,418	31,136	681	3,266	35,779	606	2,643	32,367	652	2,751	34,848	2,516	11,078	134,130
South	55	535	2,031	63	760	2,311	39	490	1,364	37	418	1,080	194	2,203	6,786
Total	931	3,968	52,479	1,189	5,511	63,385	1,098	4,769	59,063	1,175	4,996	64,253	4,393	19,244	239,180
Total Ambulance Service	13,284	47,859	435,038	14,142	51,318	464,219	14,357	47,034	448,502	14,218	51,081	451,768	56,001	197,292	1,799,527

J—Journeys.

P—Patients.

M—Mileage.

TABLE 18.

AMBULANCE SERVICE MILEAGE.

Service.	North No. 1.	North No. 2.	Central.	East.	South- East.	South.	Wallsend.	West.	Total.
Direct ...	47,865	82,076	299,326	203,373	183,294	311,769	91,162	—	1,218,865
British Red Cross Society ...	81,612	—	—	—	—	—	—	136,840	218,452
St. John Ambulance Brigade ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50,188	50,188
Agents ...	—	71,833	—	—	—	—	—	1,009	72,842
Total Ambulances...	129,477	153,909	299,326	203,373	183,294	311,769	91,162	188,037	1,560,347
Ambulance Car Service ...	80,062	285	17,917	—	—	6,786	—	134,130	239,180
Total Service ...	209,539	154,194	317,243	203,373	183,294	318,555	91,162	322,167	1,799,527

HOME HELP SERVICE

TABLE 19.

Area.	Number of cases assisted.		Home Helps employed at 31st December.	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
North No. 1	1	104	—	37
North No. 2	2	200	—	82
East	2	685	—	115
Central	11	581	—	128
South	49	693	4	199
South-East	46	804	1	118
West	10	310	—	121
Wallsend	5	313	1	96
TOTALS	126	3,690	6	896

TABLE 20.

	Full-time.	Part-time.	Total.
Confinement	115	124	239
Acute Illness	5	344	349
Old Age and Chronic Illness ...	2	3,079	3,081
Blind	—	94	94
Tuberculosis	—	30	30
Problem cases including children in absence of mother	4	19	23
Totals ...	126	3,690	3,816

The number of home helps employed compared with last year was:—

	Full-time.	Part-time.	Total.
31st December, 1959	6	896	902
31st December, 1958	10	829	839

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

TABLE 21.
SUMMARY OF CASES DEALT WITH UNDER LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS.

(1) ADMISSIONS SECTION 20 (3 day Order).										Male.	Female.	Total.									
Preston Hospital, North Shields										...	150	142	292								
St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington										...	37	30	67								
St. Nicholas' Hospital, Gosforth										...	11	15	26								
Newcastle General Hospital (Psychiatric Unit)										...	4	12	16								
										202	199	401									
(2) DISPOSAL OF SECTION 20 ADMISSIONS.										Total.											
HOSPITALS.	From Preston Hospital, North Shields.				From St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington.				From St. Nicholas Hospital Gosforth.				From Newcastle General Hospital.								
	Infor-mal.		Volun-tary.		Certifi-cation.		Infor-mal.		Volun-tary.		Certifi-cation.		Infor-mal.		Volun-tary.		Certifi-cation.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
St. George's, Morpeth	9	6	38	35	64	69												221			
St. Mary's, Stannington							6	2	24	22	4	1						59			
St. Nicholas', Gosforth													-	3	6	7	2	23			
Newcastle General Hospital																		10			
Total to Hospital	9	6	38	35	64	69	6	2	24	22	4	1	-	3	6	7	2	313			
Geriatric/Medical Wards ... Part III (Nat. Assist. Act) Home ... Died ... Totals	Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.		Male.				
	9		1		1		-						2				11				
	2		4		-		5		1		1		2		4		6				
	20		24		2		-										57				
7		3														12					
38		32		3		5		1		1		2		4		86					

(3) CERTIFICATIONS FROM HOME (Section 16).

				Male.	Female.	Total.
St. George's Morpeth	...	...	...	8	5	13
St. Mary's, Stannington	...	...	...	2	—	2
St. Nicholas, Gosforth	...	...	...	1	1	2
				<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>17</u>

(4) INFORMAL AND VOLUNTARY PATIENTS.

				Males.		Females.		Total.
				Inf.	Vol.	Inf.	Vol.	
St. George's Hospital	...	...	29	137	49	46		261
St. Mary's Hospital	...	...	6	44	15	53		118
St. Nicholas Hospital	...	...	9	16	7	25		57
Newcastle General Hospital	...	—	51		—	101		152
			<u>44</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>225</u>		<u>588</u>

TABLE 22.

SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE BY DULY AUTHORISED OFFICERS.

DISTRICT.	Area (Acres)	Popula- tion (Esti- mated)	Mental Defic- iency	Lunacy Mental Treat- ment	Social Wel- fare	Handi- capped Persons	Total
Alnwick ...	293,284	35,956	102	151	247	—	500
Ashington ...	83,910	117,644	500	245	375	—	1,120
Berwick ...	241,186	29,270	229	57	114	190	590
Blyth ...	13,001	118,310	610	340	837	—	1,787
Hexham ...	548,822	52,250	129	57	90	10	286
South Northum- berland ...	96,002	121,570	834	330	431	—	1,595
Total ...	1,276,205	475,000	2,404	1,180	2,094	200	5,878

TABLE 23.
MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

	Under age 16.		Aged 16 and over.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Particulars of Cases reported during 1959.				
(a) Cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with":—				
Number in which action taken on reports by—				
(1) Local Education Authorities on children:				
(i) While at school or liable to attend school	12	23	—	—
(ii) On leaving special schools	—	—	2	—
(iii) On leaving ordinary schools	—	—	—	—
(2) Police or by Courts	—	—	1	—
(3) Other sources	6	5	7	8
Total ...	18	28	10	8
(b) Cases reported who were found to be defectives but were not regarded as "subject to be dealt with" on any ground	—	—	—	3
(c) Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives and are thus excluded from (a) or (b) ...	—	—	—	—
(d) Cases reported in which action was incomplete at 31st December, 1959, and are thus excluded from (a) or (b)	1	1	—	—
Total ...	19	29	10	11
2. Disposal of Cases reported during 1959.				
(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e. at 1(a)), number:—				
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision ...	17	24	7	7
(ii) Placed under Guardianship	—	—	—	—
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"	—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals	1	4	2	1
Total ...	18	28	9	8
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e. at 1(b)), number:—				
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision ...	—	—	—	2
(ii) Action unnecessary	—	—	—	1
Total ...	—	—	—	3
(c) Cases reported at 1 (a) or (b) above who removed from the area or died before disposal was arranged	—	—	1	—
Total ...	18	28	10	11

				Under age 16.		Aged 16 and over.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
3. Number of Mental Defectives for whom care was arranged by the local health authority under Circular 5/52 during 1959 and admitted to:—							
(a)	National Health Service hospitals	...	...	7	5	13	25
(b)	Elsewhere	...	...	1	—	—	—
Total				8	5	13	25
4. Total cases on Authority's Registers at 31/12/59.							
(i)	Under Statutory Supervision	...	...	111	81	208	207
(ii)	Under Guardianship (including patients on licence)	...	...	—	—	—	2
(iii)	In "Places of Safety"	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iv)	In Hospitals (including patients on licence)	...	...	45	43	196	224
Total				156	124	404	433
(v)	Under Voluntary Supervision	...	...	—	2	36	52
Total				156	126	440	485
5. Number of Defectives under Guardianship on 31st December, 1959, who were dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 or 9, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 (included in 4 (ii))				—	—	—	—
6. Classification of Defectives in the Community on 31/12/59 (according to need at that date).							
(a)	Cases included in 4 (i)—(iii) in need of hospital care and reported accordingly to the hospital authority:—						
(1)	In urgent need of hospital care—						
(i)	"Cot and chair" cases	...	...	4	1	2	2
(ii)	Ambulant low grade cases	...	...	6	—	1	1
(iii)	Medium grade cases	...	...	3	—	5	5
(iv)	High grade cases	...	...	1	—	—	—
Total urgent cases				14	1	8	8
(2)	Not in urgent need of hospital care—						
(i)	"Cot and chair" cases	...	...	1	2	—	1
(ii)	Ambulant low grade cases	...	...	7	2	3	1
(iii)	Medium grade cases	...	...	1	—	3	3
(iv)	High grade cases	...	...	—	—	2	—
Total non-urgent cases				9	4	8	5
Total of urgent and non-urgent cases				23	5	16	13

				Under age 16.		Aged 16 and over.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
(b) Of the cases included in items 4 (i) (ii) and (v), number considered suitable for:—							
(i) Occupation Centre	...	...	...	71	61	—	—
(ii) Industrial Centre	...	...	...	—	—	75	69
(iii) Home training	...	...	...	14	7	14	17
Total				85	68	89	86
(c) Of the cases included in 6 (b), number receiving training on 31/12/59:—							
(i) In occupation centre (including volun- tary centres)	...	...	...	59	45	—	—
(ii) In industrial centre	...	...	...	—	—	37	44
(iii) From a home teacher in groups	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iv) From a home teacher at home (not in groups)	...	...	...	10	4	2	4
Total				69	49	39	48

HOUSING.

TABLE 24

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING 1959.				TOTAL 1958.
	Local Authority.	Other Housing Authority.	Private.	Total.	
Boroughs :—					
Berwick-upon-Tweed	24	—	47	71	58
Blyth	85	—	115	200	173
Morpeth	12	—	70	82	197
Wallsend	—	—	1	1	70
Whitley Bay	12	—	305	317	358
Urban Districts :—					
Alnwick	—	—	7	7	4
Amble	37	—	15	52	15
Ashington	96	16	10	122	86
Bedlingtonshire ...	143	—	122	265	275
Gosforth	16	—	226	242	264
Hexham	30	—	4	34	37
Longbenton	—	77	533	610	708
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	2	—	—	2	26
Newburn	42	—	60	102	167
Prudhoe	58	10	7	75	8
Seaton Valley	53	—	193	246	143
Rural Districts :—					
Alnwick	—	—	14	14	17
Belford	—	—	5	5	10
Bellingham	—	—	4	4	3
Castle Ward	11	126	208	345	246
Glendale	—	—	—	—	16
Haltwhistle	4	—	2	6	6
Hexham	33	—	12	45	48
Morpeth	4	—	27	31	24
Norham and Island-shires	4	—	2	6	4
Rothbury	11	—	5	16	17
Totals	677	229	1,994	2,900	2,980

TABLE 25
SLUM CLEARANCE.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Esti- mated total number of unfit Houses (1955).	Esti- mated number to be de- molish- ed in first 5 years.	Progress during 1959.				Total discon- tinued 1956-59.
			Formal Action.		Houses dis- contin- ued by informal action.	Total discon- tinued.	
			Houses demol- ished.	Houses closed not demol- ished.			
Boroughs—							
Berwick-upon- Tweed ...	94	94	30	3	7	40	125
Blyth ...	554	554	61	29	—	90	318
Morpeth ...	192	44	24	16	—	40	92
Wallsend ...	414	414	42	18	4	64	460
Whitley Bay ...	93	93	—	—	—	—	36
Urban Districts—							
Alnwick ...	240	18	10	—	1	11	39
Amble... ..	100	100	10	1	—	11	11
Ashington ...	10	10	—	14	3	17	25
Bedlingtonshire	750	400	134	18	22	174	614
Gosforth ...	249	182	—	—	—	—	15
Hexham ...	60	60	—	3	1	4	24
Longbenton ...	757	285	—	1	—	1	192
Newbiggin-by- the-Sea ...	73	73	—	—	—	—	9
Newburn ...	650	189	62	44	—	106	224
Prudhoe ...	572	312	11	—	2	13	145
Seaton Valley	536	536	39	24	—	63	300
Total for Boroughs and Urban Districts	5,344	3,364	423	171	40	634	2,629
Rural Districts—							
Alnwick ...	310	310	57	3	—	60	94
Belford ...	61	61	—	3	—	3	39
Bellingham ...	78	24	—	—	8	8	18
Castle Ward ...	246	246	17	—	—	17	85
Glendale ...	494	100	14	—	—	14	127
Haltwhistle ...	110	110	21	—	—	21	65
Hexham ...	73	47	5	11	—	16	60
Morpeth ...	103	103	—	2	—	2	18
Norham and Islandshires	98	98	7	—	—	7	26
Rothbury ...	43	43	—	—	—	—	4
Total for Rural Districts ...	1,616	1,142	121	19	8	148	536
Totals ...	6,960	4,506	544	190	48	782	3,165

TABLE 26.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—(1) Standard Grants.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	No. of separate houses for which Grants were made during the year.	Number of Houses so provided with					Houses improved by Local Authority with aid of exchequer Grant (Sections 13-14 of H.P. and H.A. 1959).
		Bath or Shower.	Wash- hand Basin.	Hot Water Supply.	Water Closet.	Food Store.	
Boroughs:—							
Berwick-upon- Tweed ...	2	2	2	2	1	2	—
Blyth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morpeth ...	6	3	3	3	3	2	—
Wallsend ...	3	2	3	3	2	2	1
Whitley Bay ...	1	1	1	1	—	—	1
Urban Districts:—							
Alnwick ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	—
Amble ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashington ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Bedlingtonshire	1	1	1	1	—	1	—
Gosforth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hexham ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Longbenton ...	4	2	3	3	3	2	—
Newbiggin-by- the-Sea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newburn ...	9	8	8	7	6	7	—
Prudhoe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seaton Valley	4	4	4	4	—	4	—
	32	24	26	25	17	21	2
Rural Districts:—							
Alnwick ...	34	32	32	25	30	22	—
Belford... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bellingham ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Castle Ward ...	6	1	1	1	—	—	—
Glendale ...	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Haltwhistle ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hexham ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morpeth ...	13	11	11	7	8	7	—
Norham and Islandshires...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rothbury ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	60	44	45	34	39	29	—
Total ...	92	68	71	59	56	50	2

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—(2) Discretionary Grants.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Applications dealt with during 1959.			Total approved to date.
	Submitted to Local Authority.	Rejected.	Approved.	
Boroughs:—				
Berwick-upon-Tweed ...	3	—	3	75
Blyth... ..	9	1	8	235
Morpeth	12	—	12	115
Wallsend	39*	—	9	28
Whitley Bay	4	—	4	19
Urban Districts:—				
Alnwick	24	—	24	83
Amble	13	4	9	74
Ashington	179	1	178	488
Bedlingtonshire	48	—	48	430
Gosforth	—	—	—	20
Hexham	17	2	12	98
Longbenton	6	1	5	102
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	18	—	18	253
Newburn	9	—	9	191
Prudhoe	7	—	7	94
Seaton Valley	5	—	5	80
Total for Boroughs and Urban Districts ...	393	9	351	2,385
Rural Districts:—				
Alnwick	23	1	21	220
Belford	26	—	26	160
Bellingham	27	—	27	140
Castle Ward	32	—	32	313
Glendale	27	—	27	487
Haltwhistle	12	2	10	163
Hexham	99	—	99	615
Morpeth	63	—	63	242
Norham and Islandshires ...	25	3	22	192
Rothbury	24	—	24	257
Total for Rural Districts	358	6	351	2,789
Totals ...	751	15	702	5,174

* 30 deferred for amendment.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES.

TABLE 27.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.					GRADES.				Total.
					I.	II.	III.	IV.	
Boroughs :—									
Berwick-upon-Tweed	...	...	...	...	39	1	2	1	43
Blyth	...	...	...	...	18	6	8	2	34
Morpeth	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Wallsend	...	...	...	...	8	2	1	—	11
Whitley Bay	...	...	...	...	20	3	5	2	30
Urban Districts :—									
Alnwick	...	...	...	...	8	1	1	—	10
Amble	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Ashington	...	...	...	...	24	2	1	4	31
Bedlingtonshire	...	...	...	...	47	10	14	11	82
Gosforth	...	...	...	...	26	2	4	4	36
Hexham	...	...	...	...	13	1	—	—	14
Longbenton	...	...	...	...	21	2	2	1	26
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Newburn	...	...	...	...	5	—	—	1	6
Prudhoe	...	...	...	...	5	—	—	—	5
Seaton Valley	...	...	...	...	52	1	—	—	53
Rural Districts :—									
Alnwick	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Belford	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Bellingham	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	3
Castle Ward	...	...	...	...	26	1	2	4	33
Glendale	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—
Haltwhistle	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Hexham	...	...	...	...	13	—	—	—	13
Morpeth	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Norham and Islandshires	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Rothbury	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS					328	32	40	30	430
PERCENTAGES					76·3%	7·4%	9·3%	7·0%	100·0%

WELFARE OF BLIND AND OTHER HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

TABLE 28.

REGISTER OF BLIND PERSONS.

Total, 31st December, 1958	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	712
Names added to register :—								
New cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	73	
New cases transferred from Partially Sighted	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	
							—	92
Recertifications (including 1 transferred from Register of Partially Sighted)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Transfers In	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	
							—	113
								825
Names removed from register :—								
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	85	
Decertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Transfers Out	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
							—	109
								716
TOTAL 31st December, 1959 (including 25 in sheltered work)								716

REGISTER OF PARTIALLY SIGHTED.

Total, 31st December, 1958	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	288
Names added to register :—								
New cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	
Transferred from Register of Blind	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
							—	52
Re-certified	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Transfers In	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
							—	56
								344
Names removed from register :—								
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	
Transfers to Register of Blind	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	
Transfers Out	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	
Decertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
							—	54
								290
TOTAL 31st December, 1959								290

HOME TEACHERS' VISITS.

Social welfare (blind)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,254
Social welfare (partially sighted)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,356
To give lessons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	554
To investigate new applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
To accompany patients to hospital, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Special visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,103
To homes and hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	241
Conveyance to clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	478
							—	10,294

(In addition, home teachers in the North and West paid 97 visits to deaf persons.)

CHILDREN.

On 31st December, 1959, the children on the register were classified as follows:—

	Blind.	Partially Sighted.
Under 5:—		
Educable (may be classified ineducable by the time they are five)	2	3
Ineducable	—	—
5–15:—		
Attending special schools	*7	13
Attending other schools	—	13
Not at school—		
Awaiting admission to Condover Hall ...	1	
Awaiting admission to school for blind following operative treatment	1	
	2	—
Receiving home tuition	—	1
Left school	—	1
Ineducable	6	3
	17	34
	<u>17</u>	<u>34</u>

* Including blind child recently certified, attending partially sighted class in special school, awaiting admission to School for Blind.

REGISTER OF GENERAL HANDICAPPED.

Total on register, 31st December, 1958	591
Names added to register—	
New cases Adults ...	100
Children ...	23
	<u>123</u>
	714
Names removed from register:—	
Deaths	27
Left district and miscellaneous removals from register	17
	<u>44</u>
Total 31st December, 1959 ...	<u>670</u>

REGISTER OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING.

Total on register, 31st December, 1958	286
Names added to register	6
	<u>292</u>
Names removed from register:—	
Deaths... ..	2
Left district	4
Transferred to Partially Sighted Register... ..	1
	<u>7</u>
	<u>285</u>

